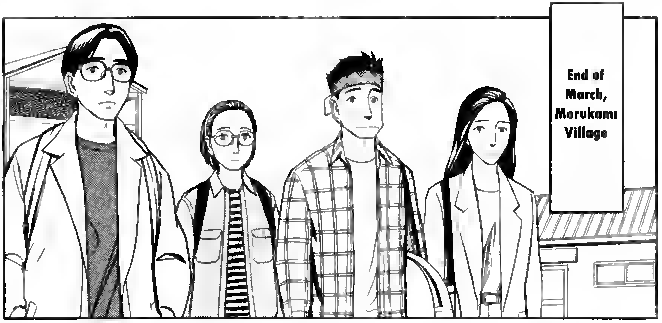
THE BLOOD OF OUR FEUDAL LORD

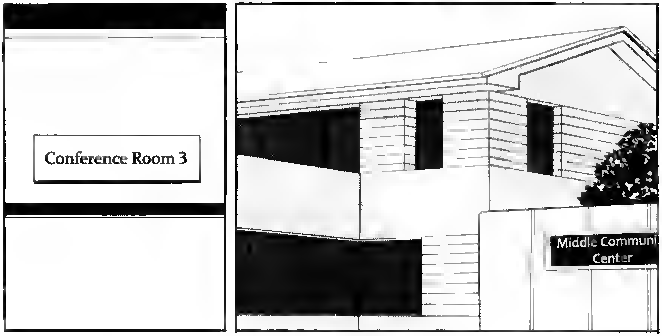
Chapter XXII

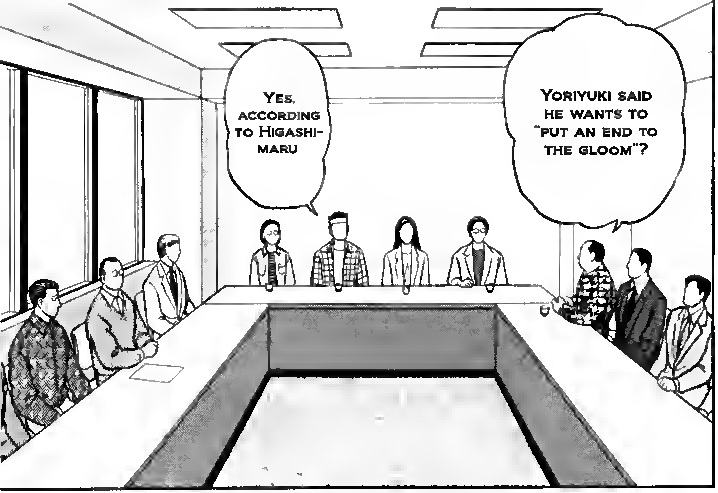
The Project Scanlations

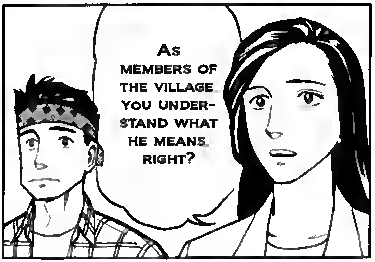

End of March, Morukami Village

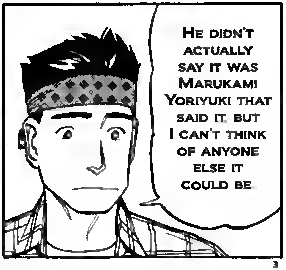
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING

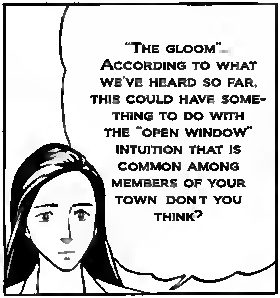
2

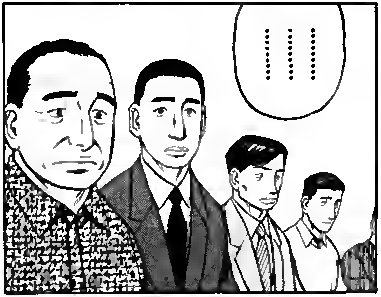

Conference Room 3
Middle Communi Center


YES. ACCORDING TO HIGASHI-MARU
YORIYUKI SAID HE WANTS TO "PUT AN END TO THE GLOOM"?


AS MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE, YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT HE MEANS, RIGHT?

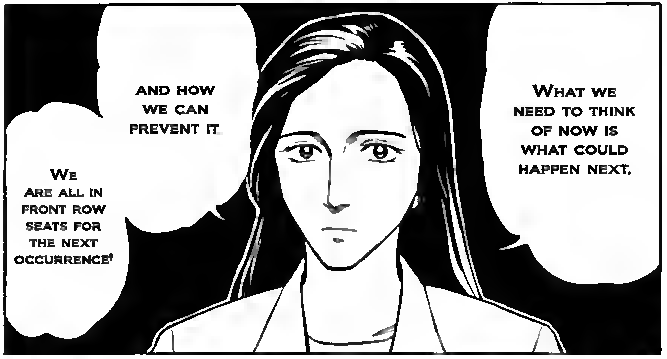

HE DIDN'T ACTUALLY SAY IT WAS MARUKAMI YORIYUKI THAT SAID IT, BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE ELSE IT COULD BE.

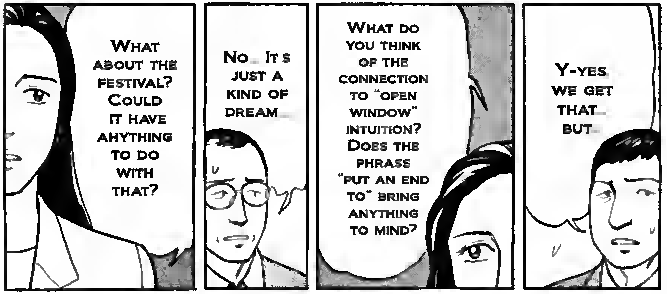

"THE GLOOM"... ACCORDING TO WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR, THIS COULD HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE "OPEN WINDOW" INTUITION THAT IS COMMON AMONG MEMBERS OF YOUR TOWN. DON'T YOU THINK?


.....

.....
Yes, that's
Everyone understands why we came all this way to hold this meeting, right?
What's wrong everyone?
Yes of course
Let me ask this clearly Could that be the work of anyone other than Marukami Yoriyuki?
There were two huge incidents recently You must have seen it in the news

No

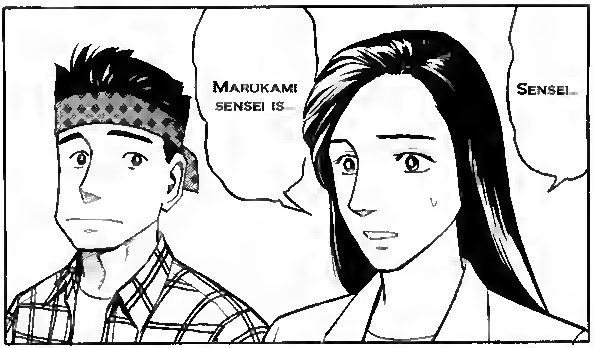

What we need to think of now is what could happen next.
and how we can prevent it
We are all in front row seats for the next occurrence!

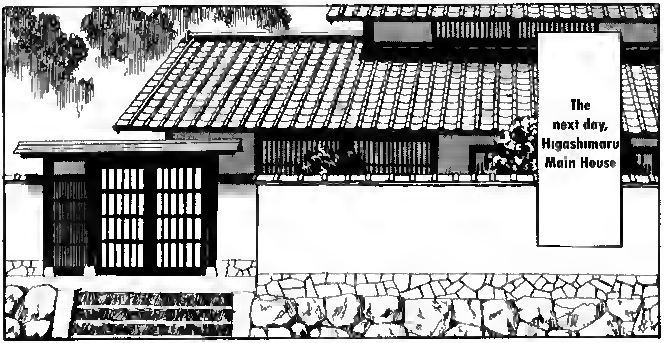

What about the festival? Could it have anything to do with that?
No... It's just a kind of dream...
What do you think of the connection to "open window" intuition? Does the phrase "put an end to" bring anything to mind?
Y-yes... we get that... but...

Yoriyuki has an excellent mind He must be thinking of things we couldn't even fathom
We've thought and thought about what Masayori's intentions might be but we can't come up with anything
Wait we can't just speak to outsiders about that
...If you haven't been able to come up with anything I bet you just haven't been trying very hard
.....

But it's criminal to stop up your ears and turn off your minds in order to protect yourselves!
These are not things to be taken lightly.
Customs and traditions only found on this land Knowledge and cares only held in this region
Nanmaru
Just now, a great power that should have been contained in this region flowed out and ran riot That Marukami Yoriyuki!
I saw it from really close by.
.....
.....
Please stop
Mi-Minamimaru! Please!
Marukami Yoriyuki is just a murderer! He's not a lord, a monarch or a priest!
Minarmi-maru you shouldn't speak of him so disrespectfully

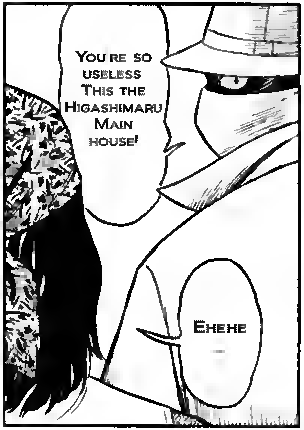
But our hearts... our feelings... how do I put it? We feel like we're about to become completely unraveled.
We also understand how urgent a situation this is..
We understand... No we already understood...
.....
Tomorrow, we're holding a meeting at the Higashimaru main house Minamimaru, Emi-sensei we request that you also attend
Please give us just one night tomorrow..
Yes, he went to the foot of Mt Kurone today for research but he should be back tomorrow.
Professor Marukami Masami will also be attending
Huh!?

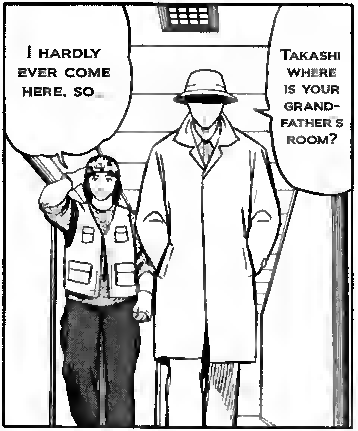

MARUKAMI SENSEI IS...
SENSEI...


The next day, Higashimaru Main House

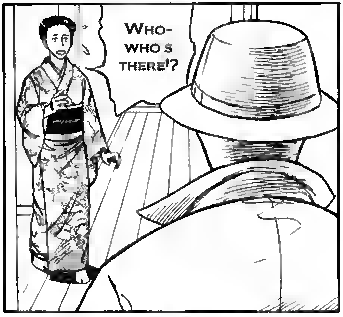
OH? THEY MUST BE HAVING A MEETING TODAY.

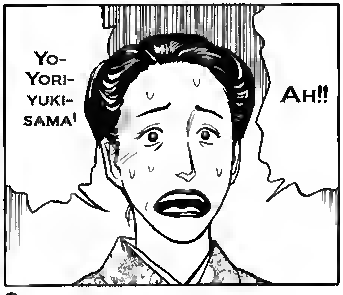
Wouldn't it cause trouble if a lot of people were to come?
We'll be gone before then. We just came to say hello.

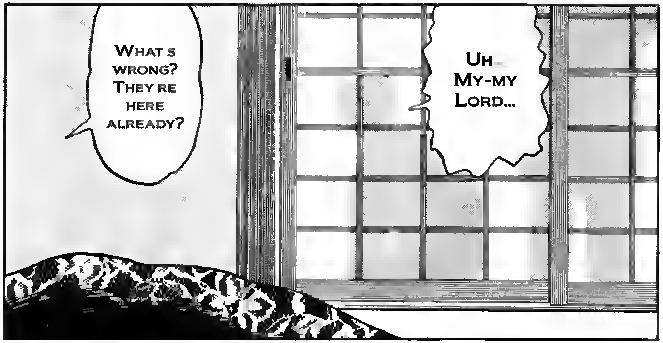

You're so useless This the Higashimaru Main house!
Ehehe


I hardly ever come here, so...
Takashi where is your grand-father's room?

11

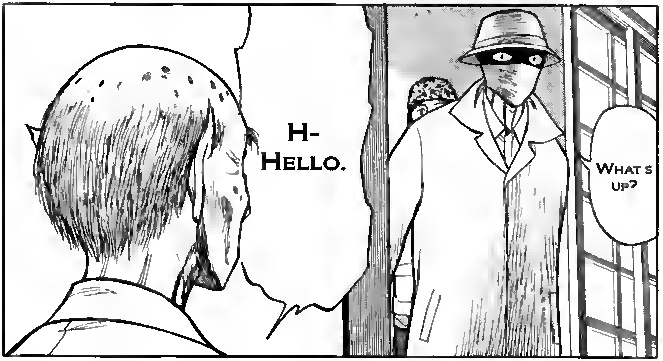


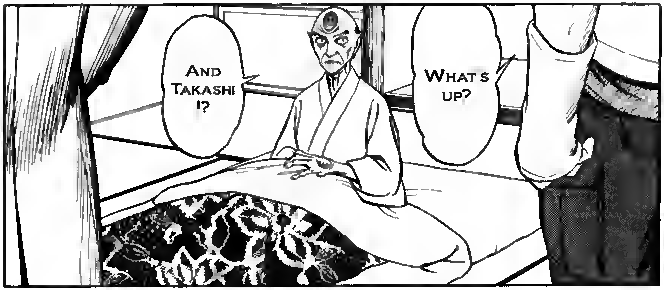


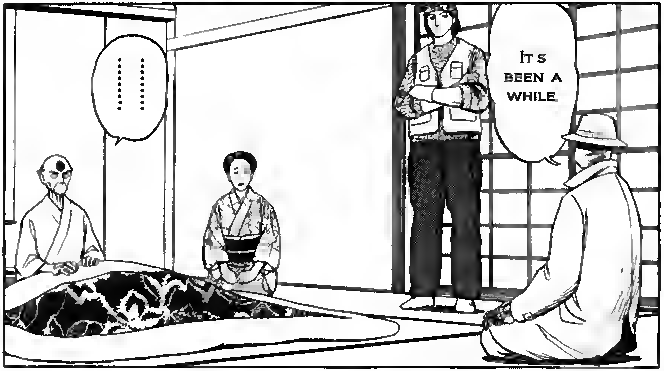

What's wrong? They're here already?
Uh... My-my Lord...

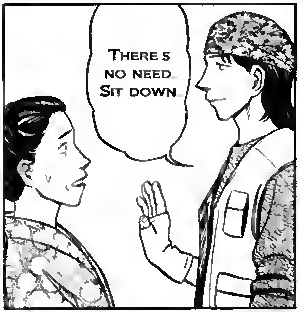
!!
It's not time yet..

12


H-Hello.
What's up?

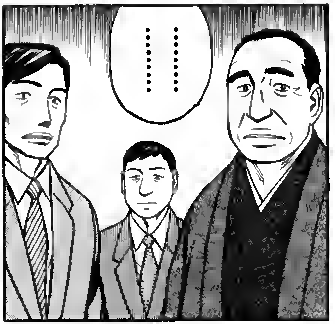

What's up?
And Takashi?

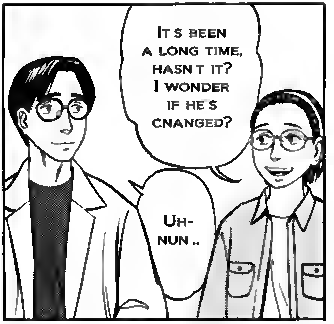

It's been a while.
.....

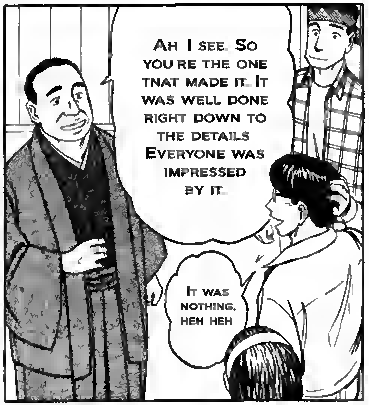

There's no need. Sit down

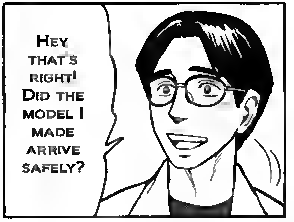
U-uh I'll go and put some tea on.

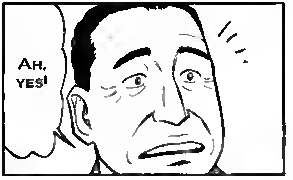
AH. GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNING
峰屋旅館
TEXT MINEYA HOTEL
.....?
O-OF COURSE!
UH, YES!
LET'S DO OUR BEST AGAIN TODAY!
14
YES HE GOT IN TOUCH YESTERDAY TO SAY HE'LL BE A BIT LATE HE'S GOING TO GO STRAIGHT THERE
UM HAS MARU-KAMI-SENSEI BEEN WELL...?
.....
I...I SEE...
WE'RE GOING TO WALK TO THE HIGASHIMARU MAIN HOUSE BUT IT'S NOT FAR FROM HERE WE'LL GET THERE IN TIME IF WE LEAVE IN ABOUT 10 MINUTES

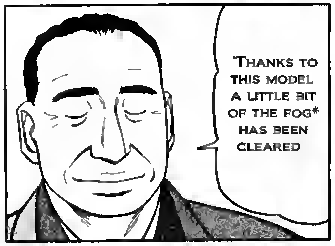

……

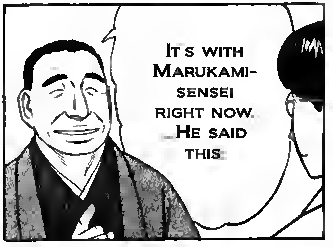

It's been a long time, hasn't it? I wonder if he's changed?
Uh-nun ..


Ah I see. So you're the one that made it. It was well done right down to the details Everyone was impressed by it.
It was nothing. heh heh

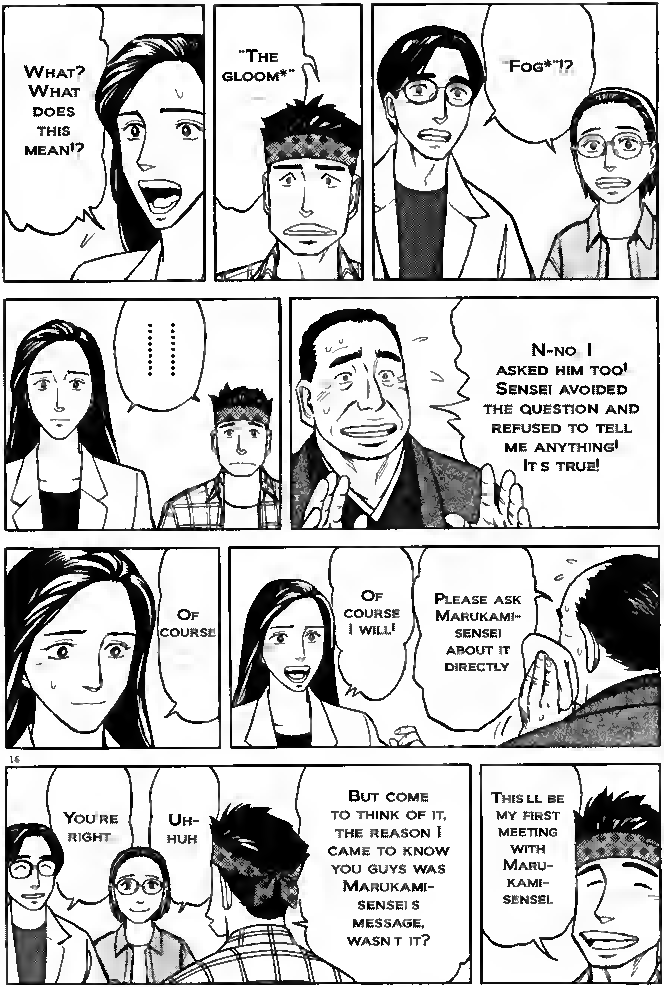

Hey that's right! Did the model I made arrive safely?

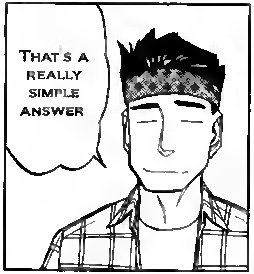

Ah, yes!

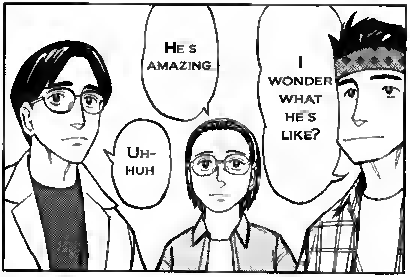

Thanks to this model a little bit of the fog* has been cleared


It's with Marukami-sensei right now. He said this

*Literally "the gloom in heart(s)". The word translated fog in the previous two lines is the same as translated gloom here


What? What does this mean!?
"The gloom*"
"Fog*"!?
.....
N-no I asked him too! Sensei avoided the question and refused to tell me anything! It's true!
Of course
Of course I will!
Please ask Marukami-sensei about it directly
16
You're right
Uh-huh
But come to think of it, the reason I came to know you guys was Marukami-sensei's message, wasn't it?
This'll be my first meeting with Marukami-sensei

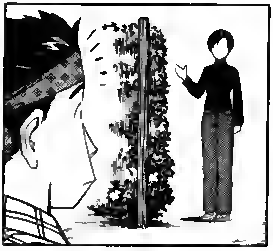

THAT'S A REALLY SIMPLE ANSWER

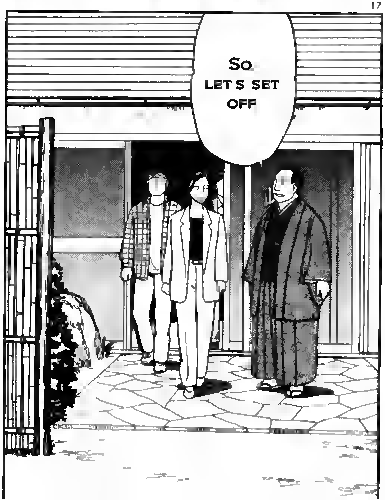

HE'S AMAZING
I WONDER WHAT HE'S LIKE?
UH-HUH

HMM?

YEAH

TO YOU VILLAGERS HE'S LIKE A MESSIAH OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?



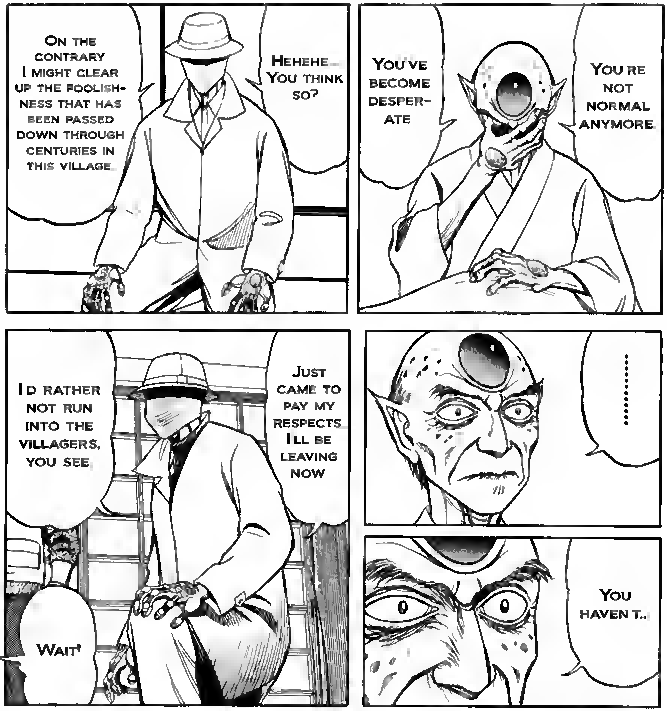

SO, LET'S SET OFF

SACHIKO!

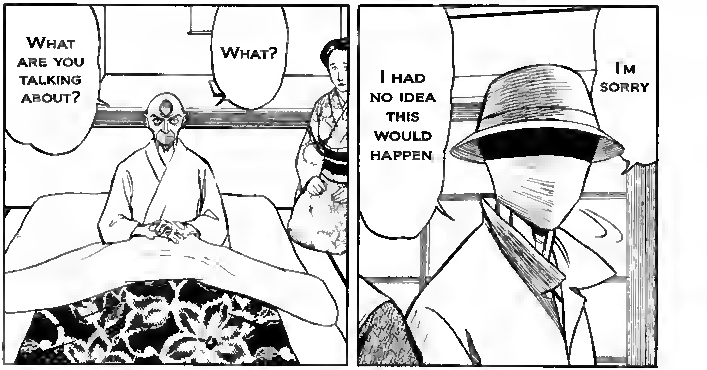
Correct
.. So you have your answer you say..

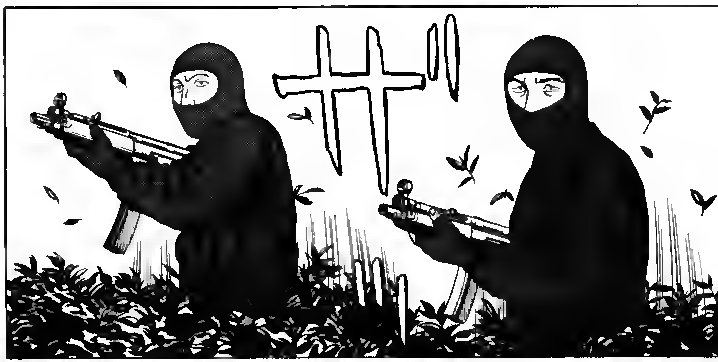
Just one thing
What do you plan to do here?

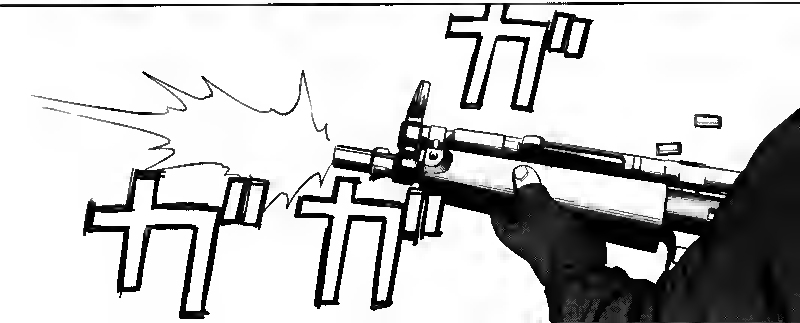
I just wondered if I wouldn't receive a lot of unexpected support
I want to get rid of this stagnation No more


On the contrary I might clear up the foolishness that has been passed down through centuries in this village.
Hehehe... You think so?
You've become desperate
You're not normal anymore
I'd rather not run into the villagers, you see.
Just came to pay my respects. I'll be leaving now
.....
Wait!
You haven't..
Huh?
Later grand-uncle!
Say hello to Marukami-sensei and everyone for me

DO
.....
Idiots..
Huh?

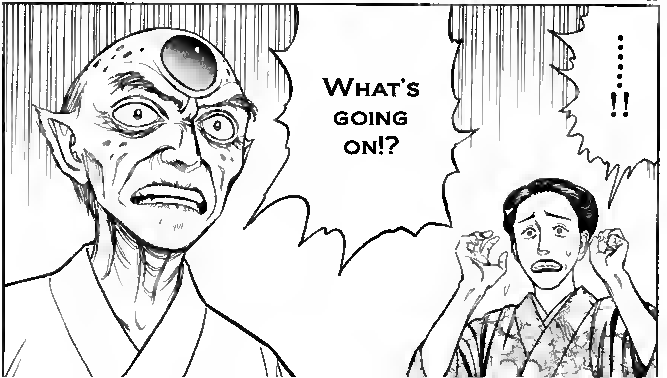

What are you talking about?
What?
I had no idea this would happen
I'm sorry

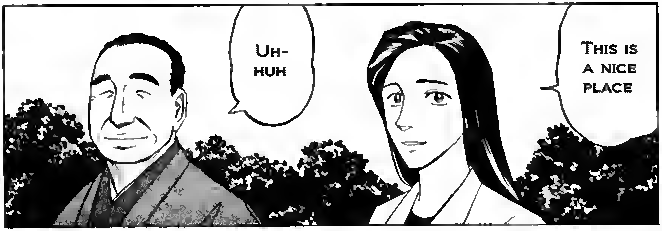


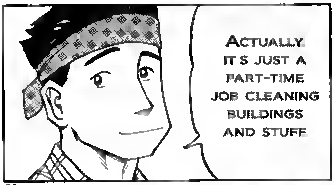


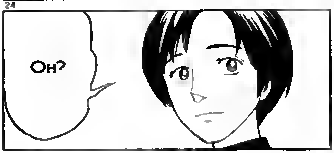
GAH!

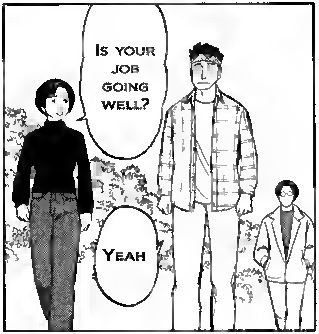
ガガガガ
HYAA!


WHAT'S GOING ON!?
……!!

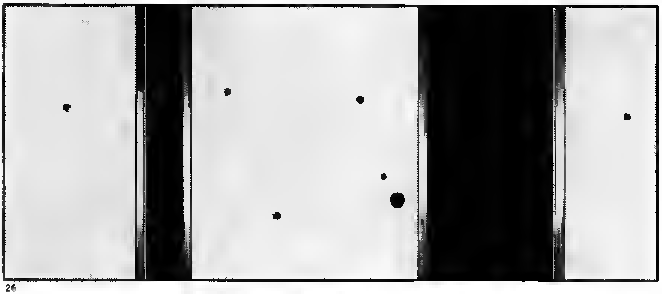

Uh-huh
This is a nice place


Actually, it's just a part-time job cleaning buildings and stuff


Oh?

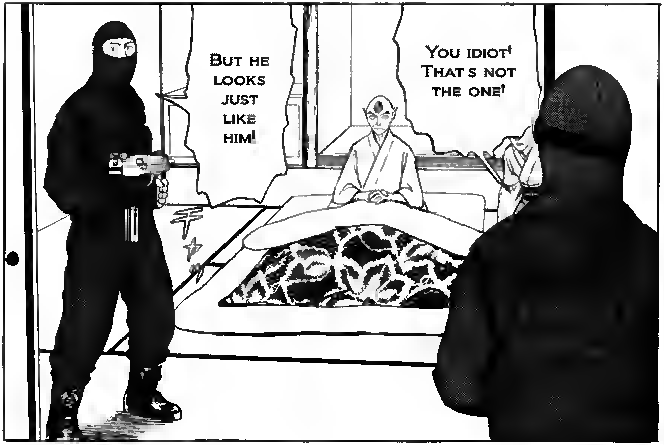

Is your job going well?
Yeah

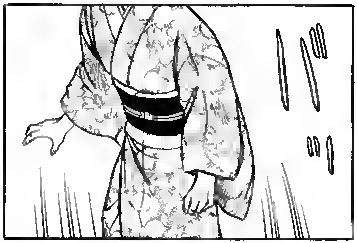
You think so?
Somehow, it seems like I've made the villagers hate me
I don't think they hate you
That so?
It's because I spoke badly about Yoriyuki yesterday
No way!
Huh!?
They're just scared of you
25
Wow... Unbelievable
What you said yesterday sounded like an order. They're all descendants of vassals, you see. Basically they're in awe of the blood their feudal lord, or however you put it
Yeah. What he said
This face!? Scary!?

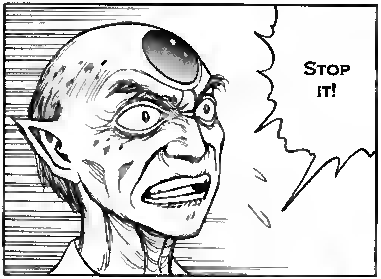


We should consider ourselves surrounded.
Are you serious?

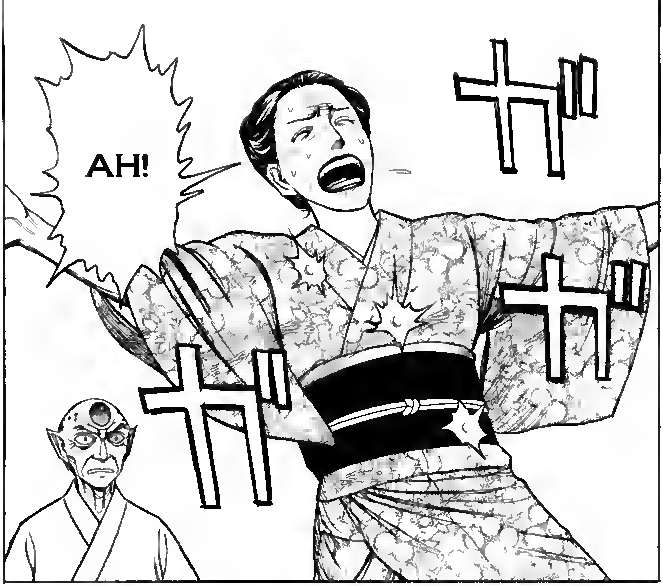
ドドド


But he looks just like him!
You idiot! That's not the one!

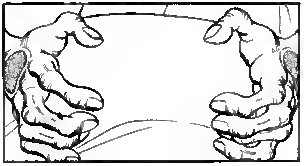



Stop it!

!!


AH!

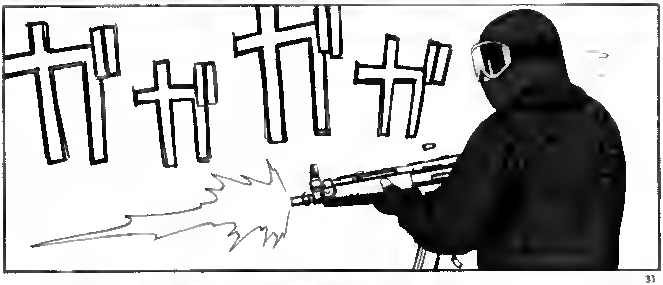
.....



ア

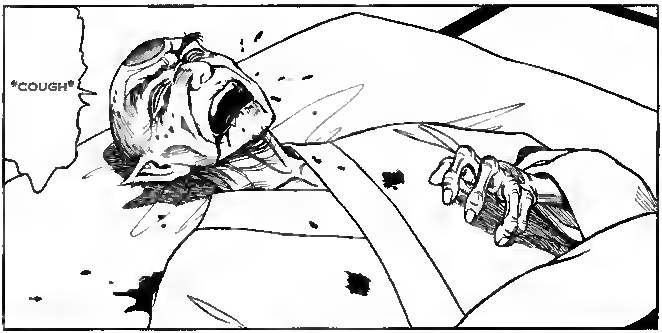
カミソリ

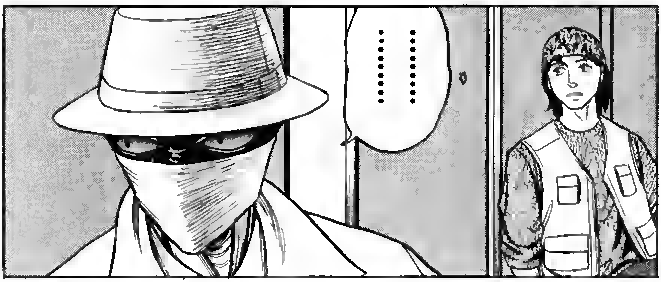
L-l-look!
See!?

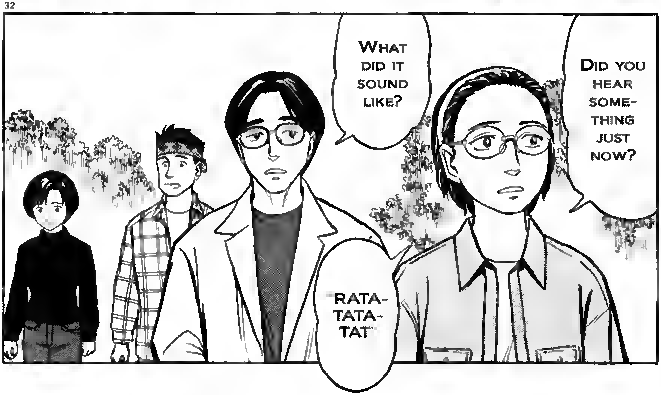

ガガガガ

Guh!

Translation: Fatality
Cleaning: Drow22
Typesetting: StylessEnvy

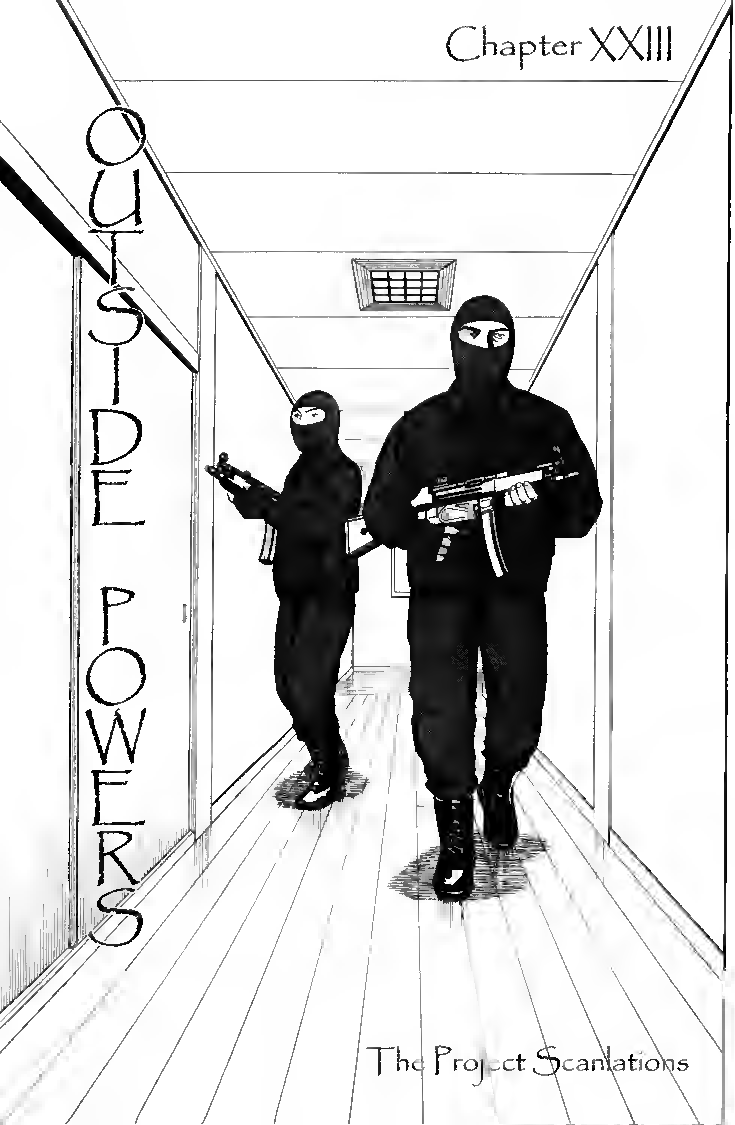

COUGH


.....


WHAT DID IT SOUND LIKE?
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING JUST NOW?
RATA-TATA-TAT

Chapter XXIII

OUTSIDE POWERS

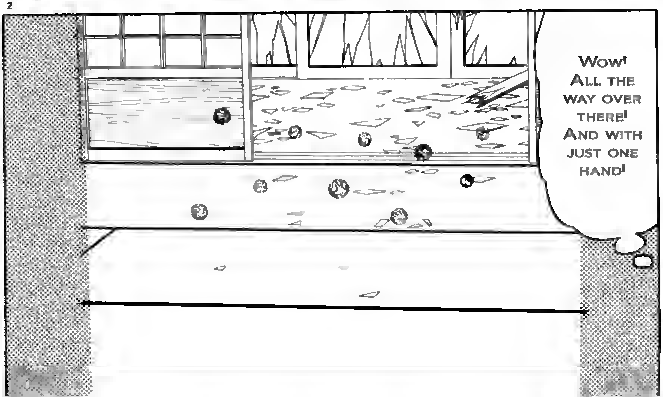


The Project Scanlations

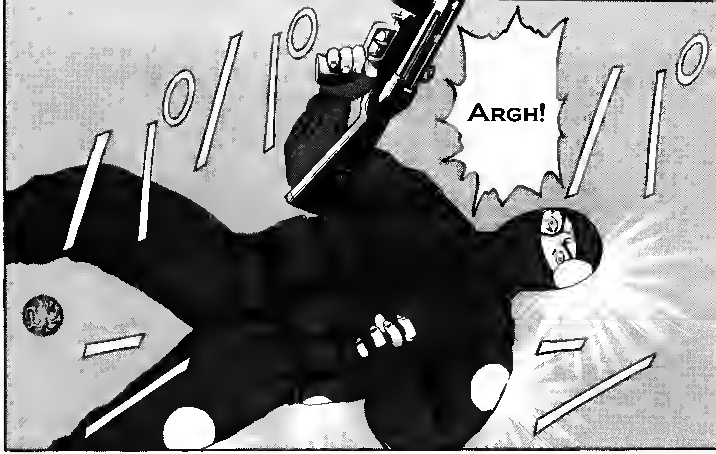
.....

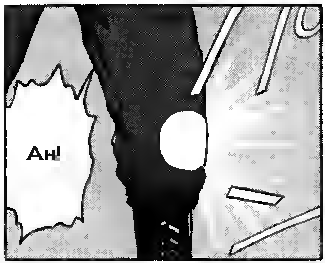
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?

2

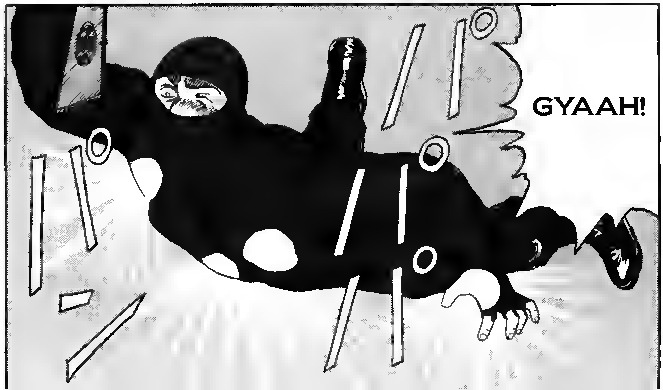

WOW! ALL THE WAY OVER THERE! AND WITH JUST ONE HAND!

ドドド


ARGH!


AH!

WHAT HAP-PENED!?


GYAAH!

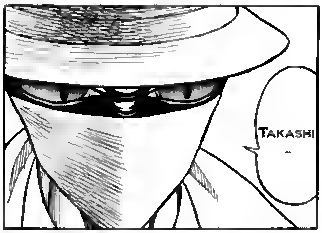
GUH..!
YOU FOOL! DON'T SHOW YOUR-SELF!
AHAHA! IDIOTS!
ガガ
ガガ
AH!!

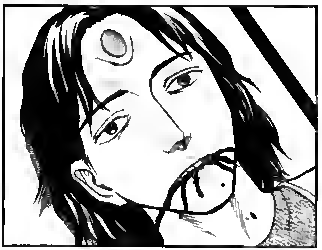
JUST NOW..
YOU HEARD IT, RIGHT? THAT SOUND

U- H-
.....
THIS IS BAD!
TH-
OI!
.....

JUST WHEN... SOMETHING REALLY... INTERESTING... WAS FINALLY ABOUT...
G...UUH...
TAKASHI!
ACK!
TELL HER... I'M SO...RRY...
A... AH... NEXT TIME... YOU SEE HER...

ドスドス
ドスドス
……


TAKASHI



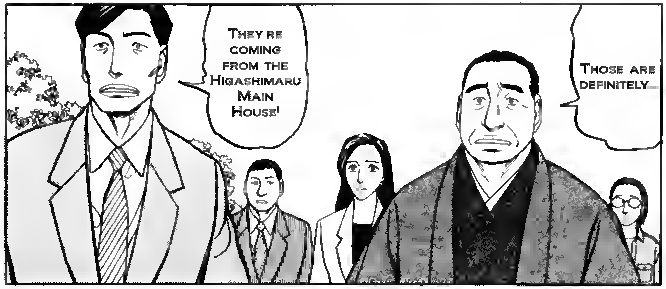
STAY ALERT!
WHERE IS HE!?

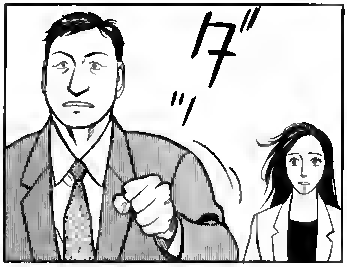
THAT MONSTER!

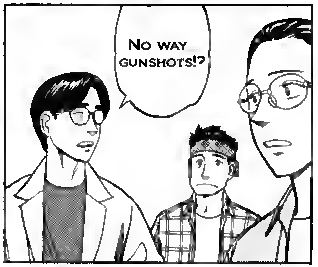
OH SHIT!

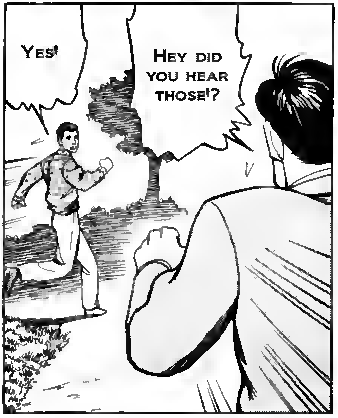
ガ ガ ガ
ガ ガ ガ ガ

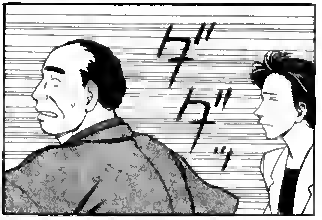
ガ
ガ
ガ
ガ

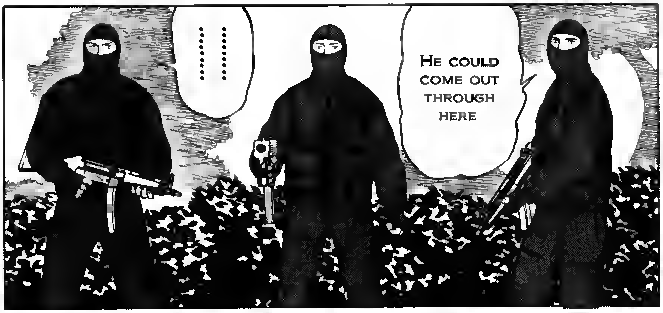

They're coming from the Higashimaru Main House!
Those are definitely...


ﾀﾞﾝ
ﾀﾞﾝ

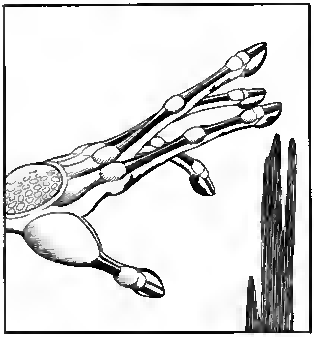

No way gunshots!?

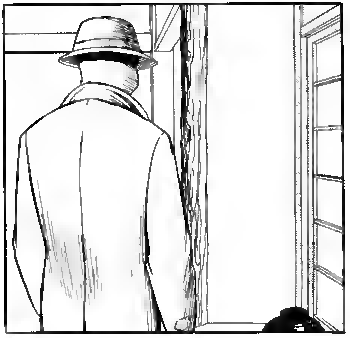

Yes!
Hey did you hear those!?

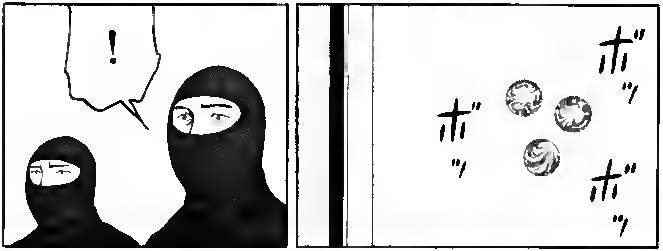

ﾀﾞﾝ
ﾀﾞﾝ



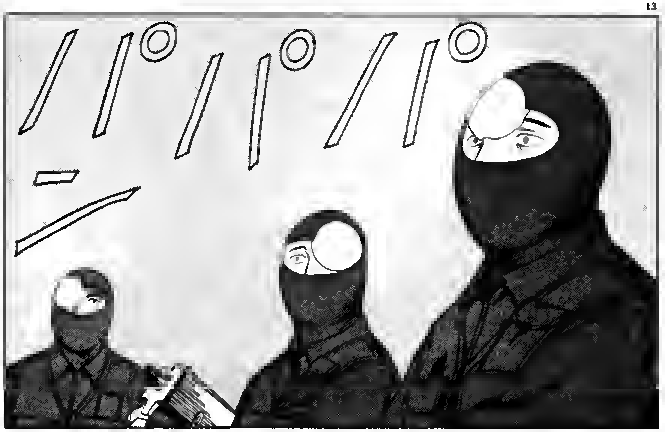
12





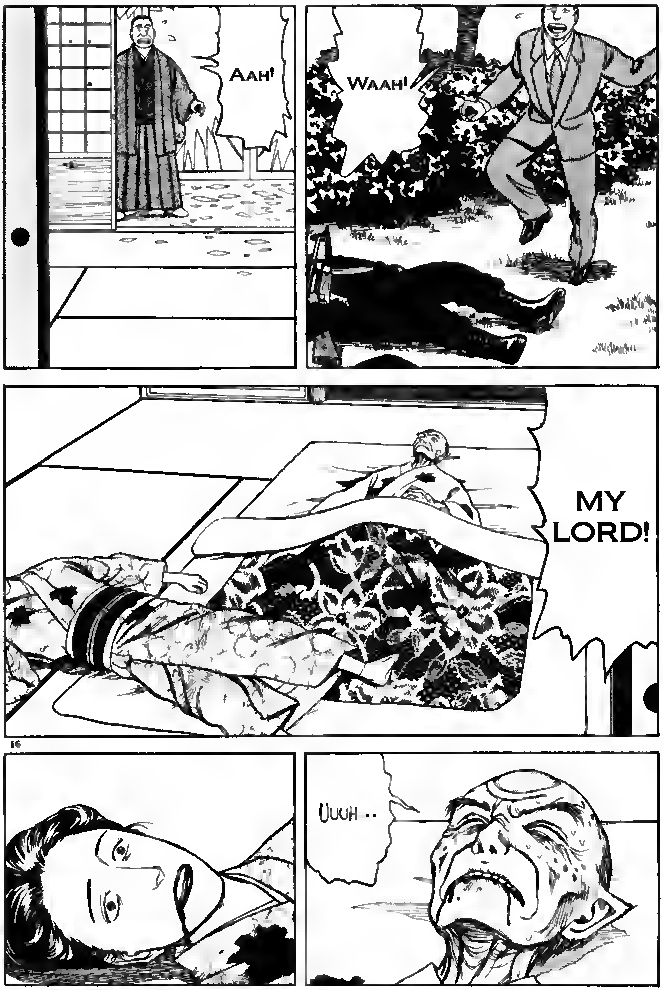


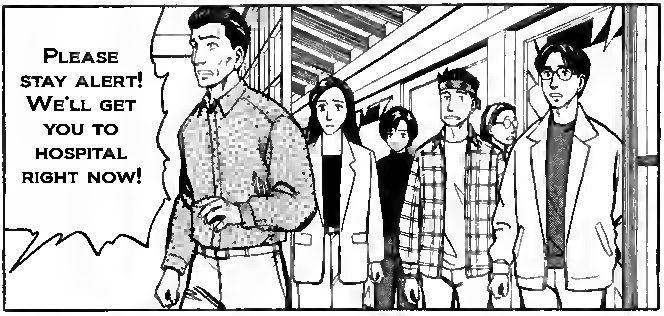
13



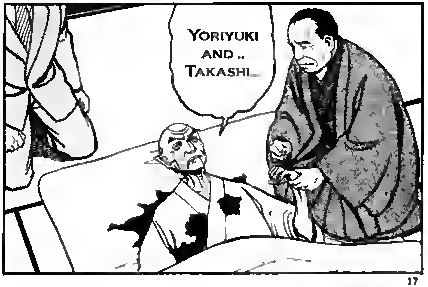
THIS MEANS... HE ESCAPED, HUH...
AH!
LET'S MOVE!
MY LORD!!

THIS IS NO SMALL MATTER!
I'LL GO ROUND THE BACK!
15
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE LORD'S ROOM!
AH, GLASS! EVERYONE PUT SLIPPERS ON!


AAH!
WAAH!
MY LORD!
16
UUUH..

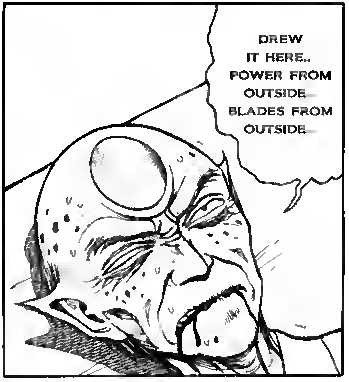

PLEASE STAY ALERT! WE'LL GET YOU TO HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW!

YES?

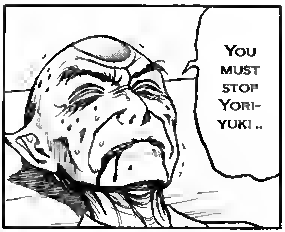

YORIYUKI AND .. TAKASHI...

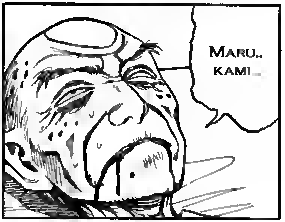
YORIYUKI AND TAKASHI WERE HERE?

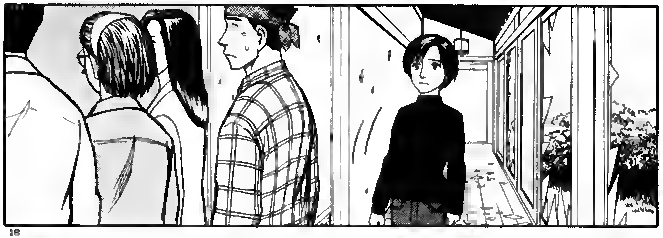
.....

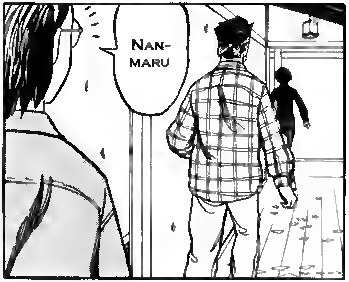

DREW IT HERE.. POWER FROM OUTSIDE... BLADES FROM OUTSIDE...

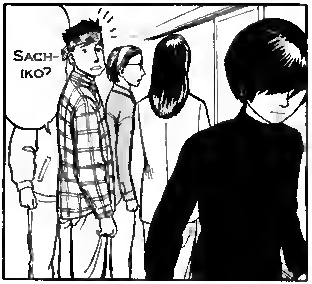
My Lord!

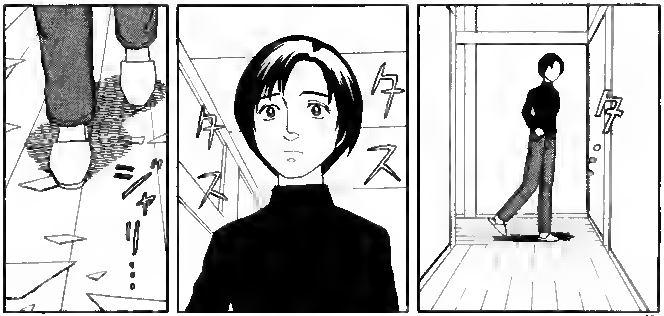

You must stop Yori-yuki..

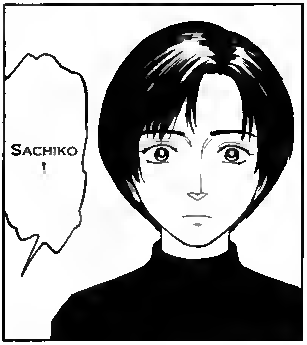

Maru.. kami..

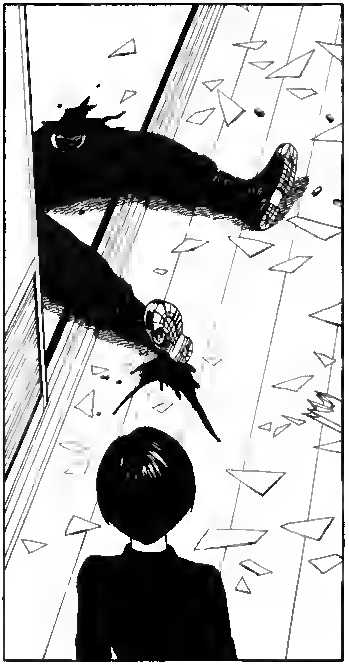


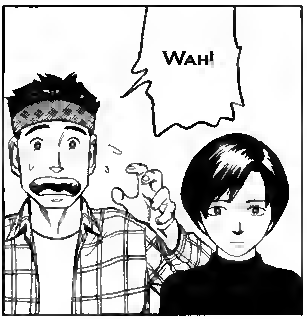

Nan-maru


Sachi-ko?


ジャリ…
タス
タス
タ
タ


SACHIKO
!




WAH!

U-u-
uh…
Sa-Sa-
Sachi…

TA-
TAKASHI!
AH!
...
21

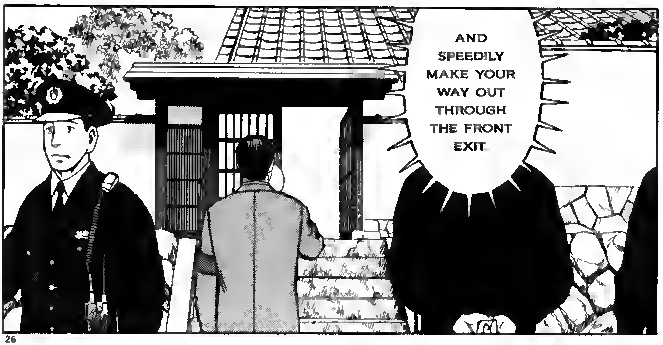
HA...
HAHA...
SACHIKO...
AHHHHHH
UUWA-
AAAA!!

THIS GUY! THERE WERE STILL... THERE WERE STILL...
OO-OO-OO-OO-OH!
SACHIKO!
SACHIKO!

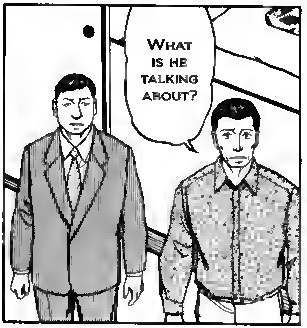
There were still things I wanted to say to him...
Who on earth...
Nan... Nan-maru!
Aa-aa-ah!
But...
Let's go. We'll ask the others to help

SACHIKO !
BUT.. THIS GUY, RIGHT... THERE WERE STILL... THINGS I WANTED TO SAY TO HIM.
!
CAN YOU HEAR ME IN THERE ?
WE.. WE CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS OUR-SELVES..
UUUGH.. IT'S NO GOOD.. I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE...
25
NO WAY, ALREADY!? ALL THE WAY OUT HERE IN THE STICKS..?
THE POLICE !?
THEY MUST'VE BEEN REALLY WELL-PREPARED...
ARE THERE ANY INJURED ?

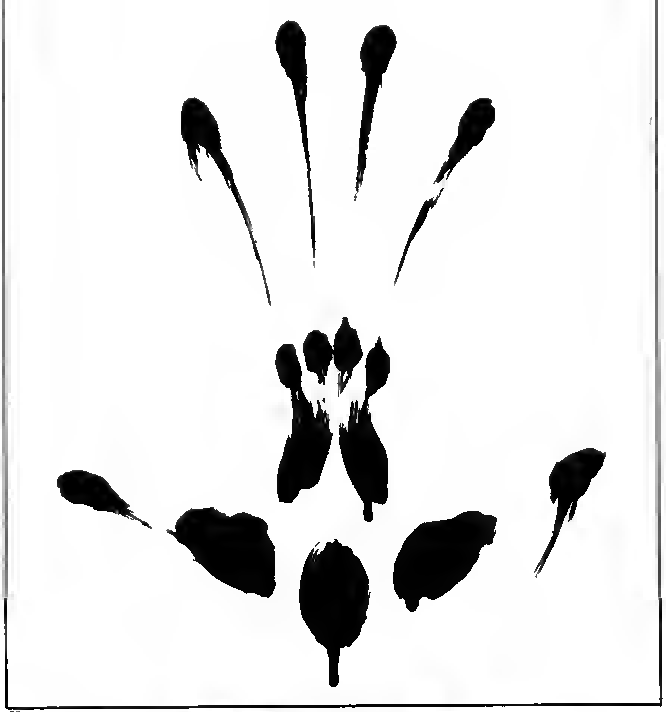
DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING, WATCH YOUR STEP.
IN ORDER TO SOLVE THE CASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WE MUST TAKE STEPS TO PRESERVE ITS CURRENT STATE

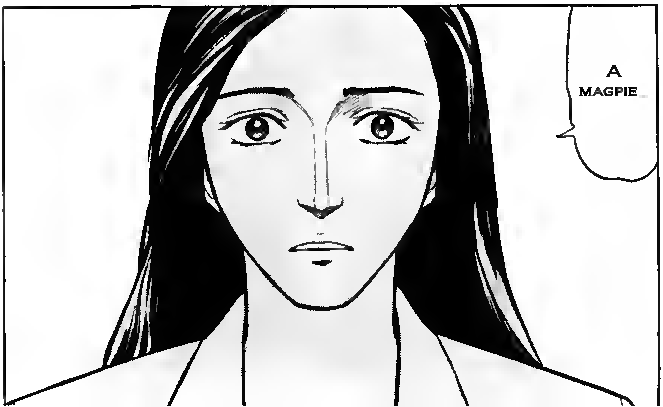

AND SPEEDILY MAKE YOUR WAY OUT THROUGH THE FRONT EXIT

EVERY-ONE PLEASE COOPER-ATE


WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

.....
He's gone..
Hey! We have an injured person in here!
Where's Emi-sensei?
Let's go..

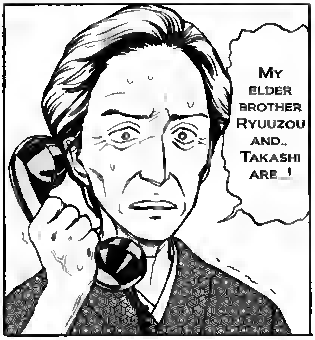



A
MAGPIE

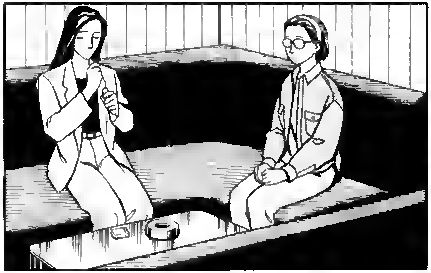
Chapter XXIV

WITHIN THE WINDOW

The Project Scanlations

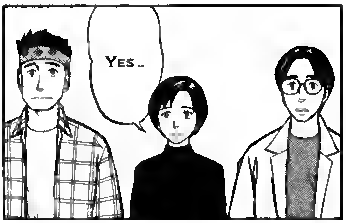


2

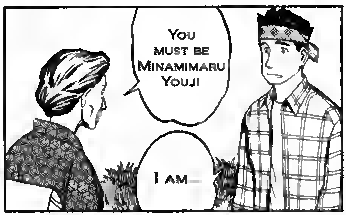


Door Mineya Hotel

Huuh ?
They said we should stay here por a while didn't they? They'll probably be back a few more times
..I didn't expect the police questioning to be that easy
ガラ ラ
.....
Sensei ..
You can go back ahead of me if you want
Ah welcome back Where s Nanmaru ?
We were ih the middle of seeing Sachiko home

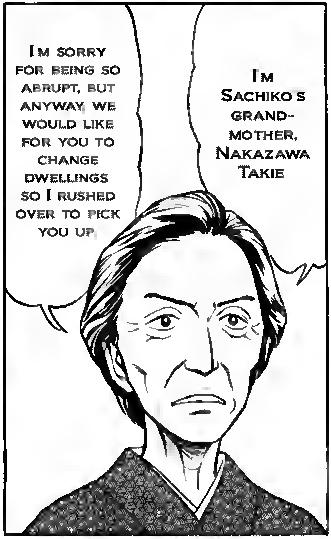

Yes..

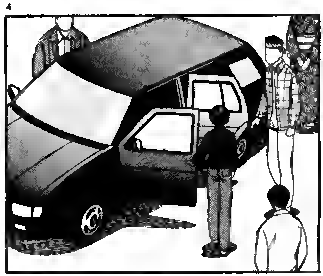
Sachiko are you alright!?
Sachiko !


You must be Minamimaru Youji
I am—

Grand-mother—

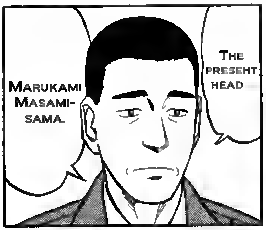
Huh —?

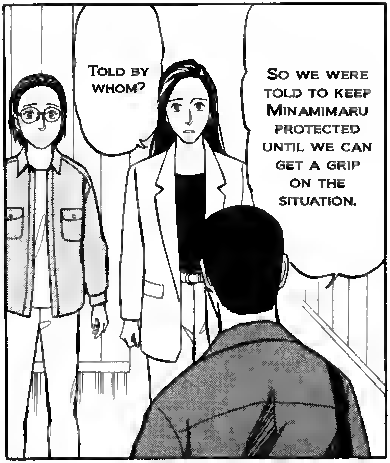

I'm sorry for being so abrupt, but anyway we would like for you to change dwellings so I rushed over to pick you up.
I'm Sachiko's grand-mother, Nakazawa Takie

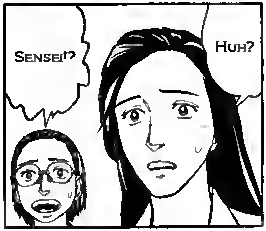


HUH...
UH, WHAT ABOUT ME?
I'M VERY SORRY.
EXCUSE ME.
ガラ
SOMEONE'S COMING TO PICK IT UP.
SO WHAT ABOUT HIS LUGGAGE?
SEE THERE HE IS.

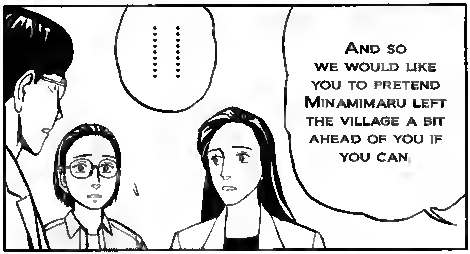
U-um..
W-wait
Thanks then
Yes
Nanmaru... Minamimaru's staying at Sachiko's place right?
Yes?
As you all know this town is currently going through a crisis We lost a previous generation's priest and Takeshi of the Sakanoshita/Higashimaru house.
Yes
Well, that is one reason, but..
And.. it's because he's descended from this town's feudal lord?

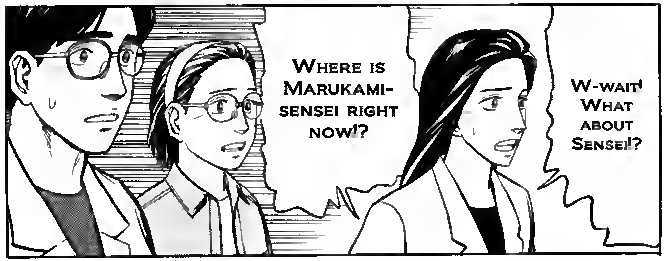

Marukami Masami-sama.
The present head

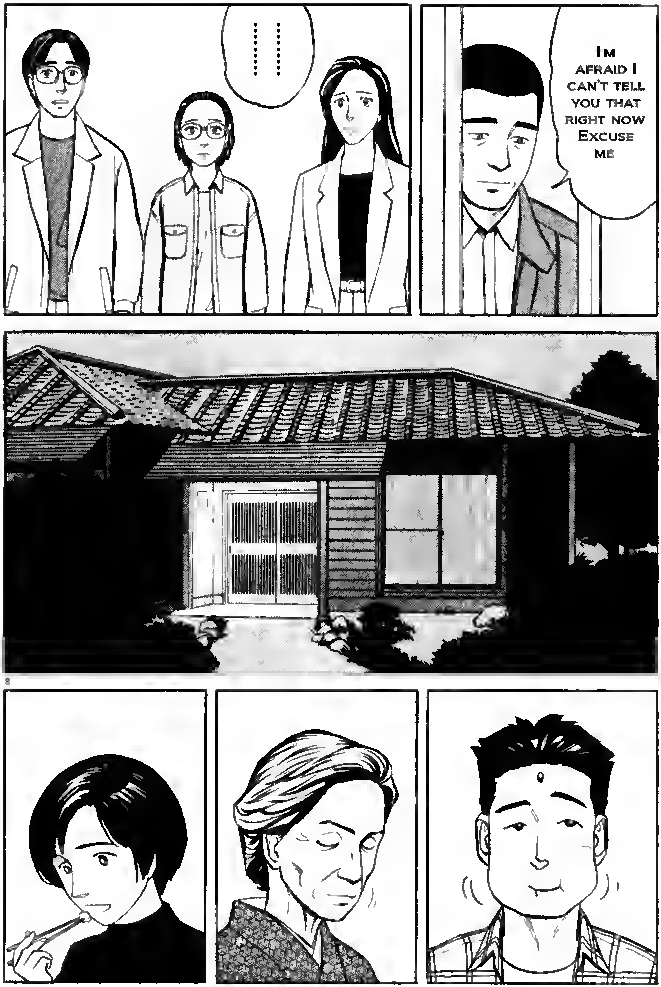

So we were told to keep Minamimaru protected until we can get a grip on the situation.
Told by whom?


Huh?
Sensei!?

Now if you'll excuse me.

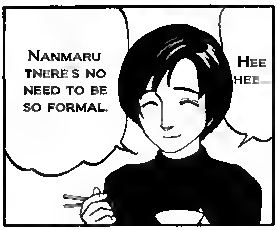

And so we would like you to pretend Minamimaru left the village a bit ahead of you if you can.


Where is Marukami-sensei right now!?
W-wait! What about Sensei!?

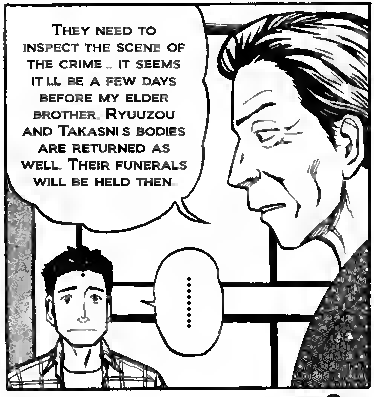

.....
Im afraid I can't tell you that right now Excuse me

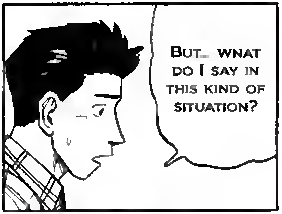
……

Ah no haha…


Nanmaru there's no need to be so formal.
Hee hee…

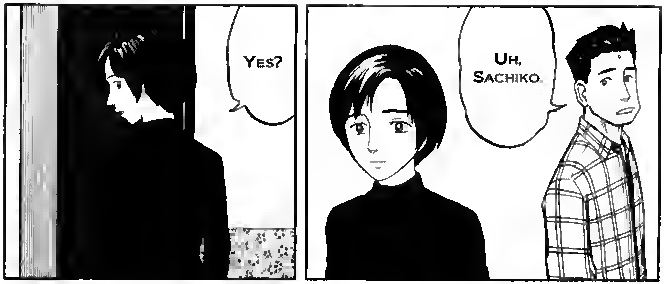
It was very good..
Thanks..


They need to inspect the scene of the crime… it seems it'll be a few days before my elder brother, Ryuuzou and Takashi's bodies are returned as well. Their funerals will be held then.
……


But… what do I say in this kind of situation?

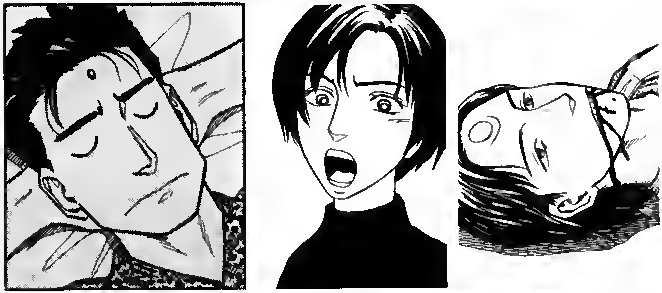
……

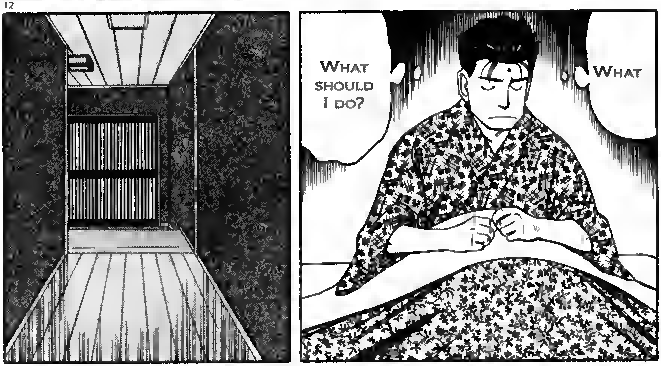
Okay, thanks
The bath is ready You can get in whenever you want
I will.
Sachiko, I'm going to Etsuko's place to discuss the schedule and such. Take care of things for me.
Kay. Thanks
There are blankets in the closet in case you get cold


YES?
UH, SACHIKO.

YES..
ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT..



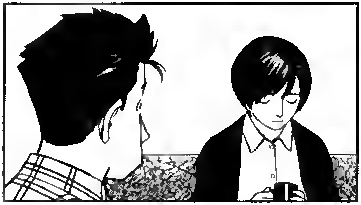

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT

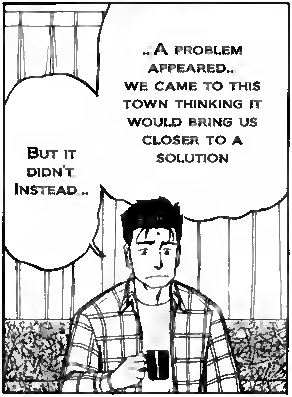
NANMARU...
EVEN SO... DON'T GO OUTSIDE YET...
HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING AGAIN TODAY?
.....
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN!?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

Anyway... two people with "hands that reach" died, so you have to be careful too...
It's probably because of what Yoriyuki did...
I don't know the details either, but...
.....
They were your brother and granduncle weren't they!?
"Anyway" !?
I'm sorry... I'm just so upset, I lost control... I'm really sorry
...I lost control this afternoon as well...

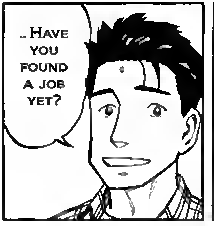
Or maybe I should've gotten some sake.
No, this is fine.

Here's some hot milk. Coffee would keep you awake, so.



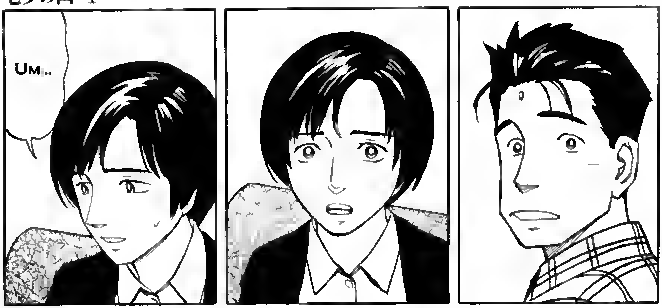

..A problem appeared.. we came to this town thinking it would bring us closer to a solution
But it didn't. Instead..

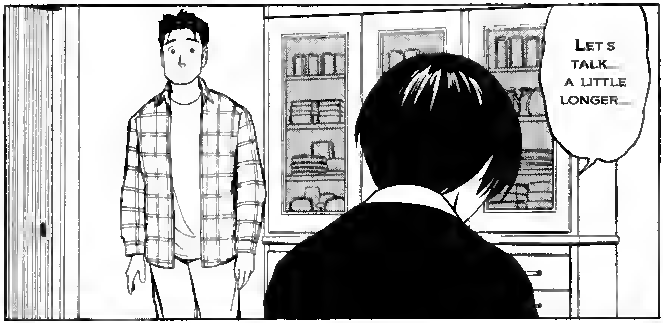
Bad choice of topics


..Have you found a job yet?

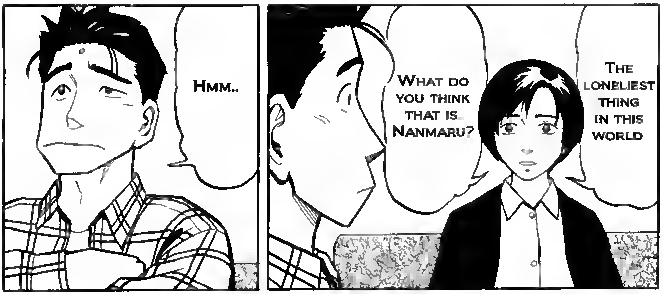
Yes?
Sachiko, uh–

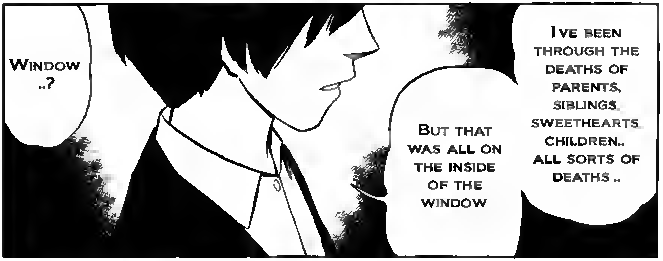
FOR A LOCAL COMPANY THAT DEALS IN GENERAL GOODS.
I'M GOING TO WORK IN AN OFFICE STARTING THIS YEAR.
WHY, YES. I HAVE.
OH, REALLY? THAT'S GREAT!
16
WAIT!
THANKS I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SLEEP NOW.

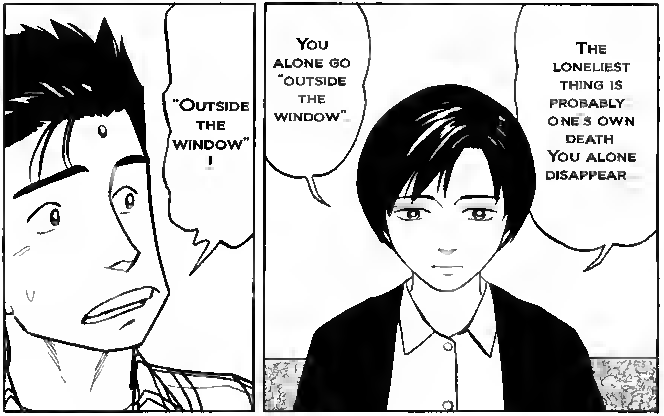

UM...

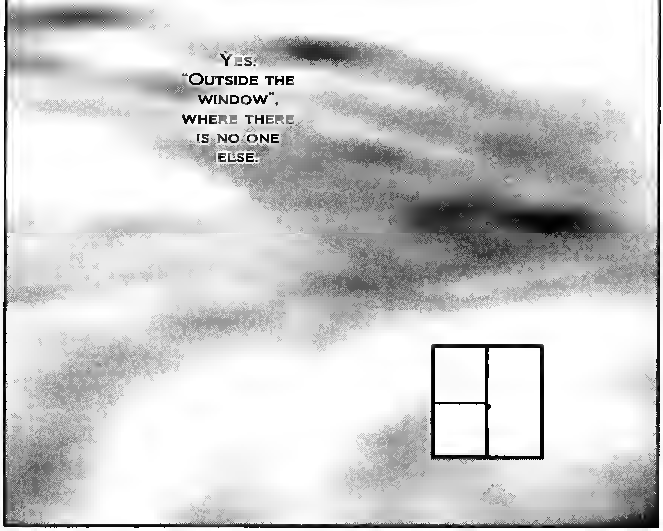

LET'S TALK... A LITTLE LONGER...

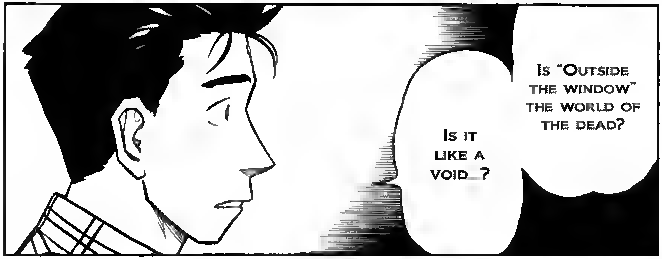
When people die, they become stars in the night sky. It's a common saying, so a lot of people say it's just a routine thing, but I think it's perfect.
There must be billions-trillions of kilometers between each shining star.
Above, below, to the left, to the right... all pitch black. Even if you stretch out your hand... even if you scream... no one will hear.
That's probably what death would feel like.
If your body dies assuming your consciousness lives on somewhere..


Hmm..
What do you think that is Nanmaru?
The loneliest thing in this world

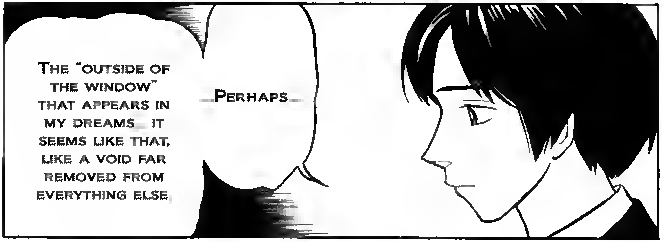

Window ..?
But that was all on the inside of the window
I've been through the deaths of parents, siblings, sweethearts, children.. all sorts of deaths ..


"Outside the window" !
You alone go "outside the window"
The loneliest thing is probably one's own death You alone disappear


YES.
"OUTSIDE THE WINDOW", WHERE THERE IS NO ONE ELSE.


IS "OUTSIDE THE WINDOW" THE WORLD OF THE DEAD?
IS IT LIKE A VOID...?

20

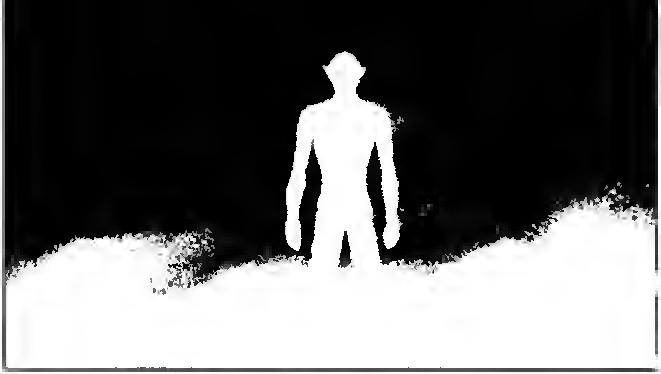

THE "OUTSIDE OF THE WINDOW" THAT APPEARS IN MY DREAMS... IT SEEMS LIKE THAT, LIKE A VOID FAR REMOVED FROM EVERYTHING ELSE.
...PERHAPS...

But it also feels like being buried alive deep, deep inside the earth, unable to move

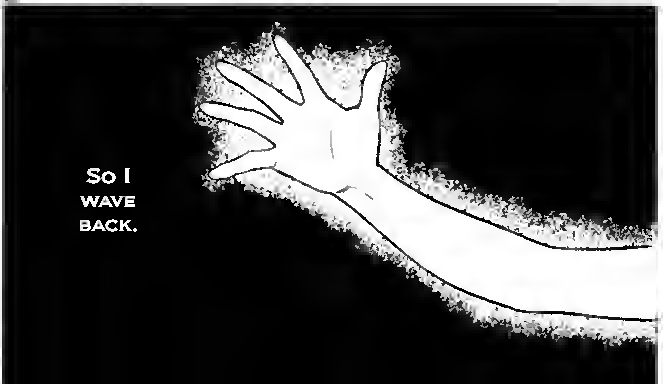
All alone... millennia, tens of millennia pass and I'm still trapped all alone... it's like being conscious for eternity.

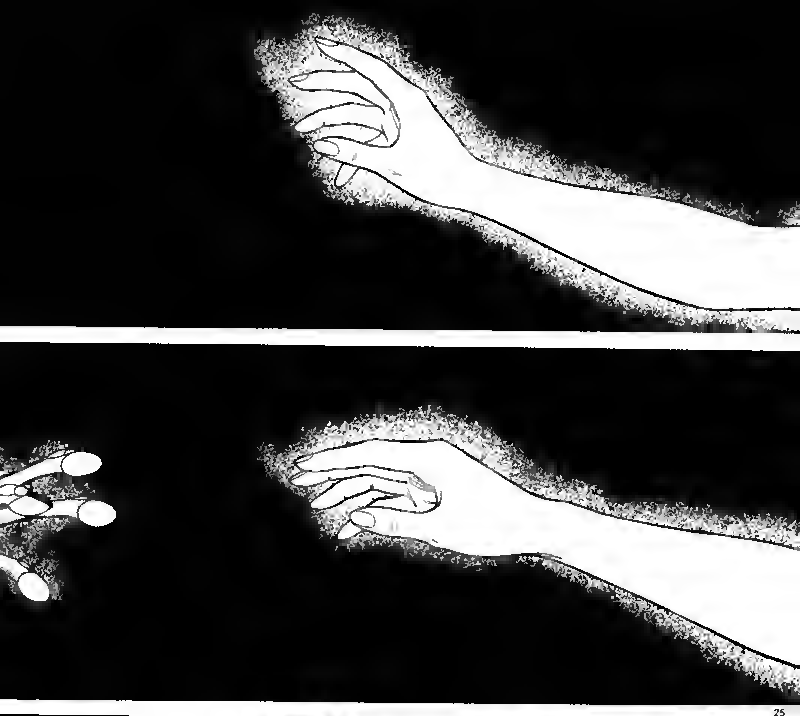
Anyway, it's not in here. It's "outside".

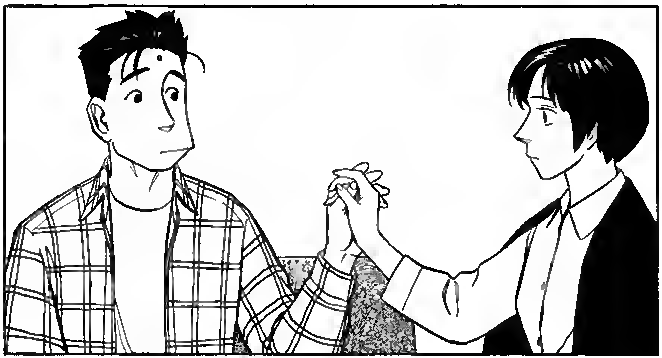
But very rarely, you do feel one thing.
There's someone there. On the other side of the heavenly river.
I'm dead. I should have become like a single, lonely star, but...



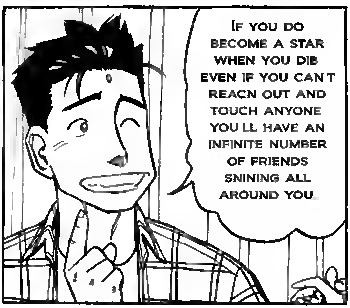
It's as if they're waving at me.


So I wave back.





EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO SPEND ETERNITY ALL ALONE IN THE DARK IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SO IF THAT HAPPENED TO EVERYONE WHO DIED BEFORE YOU AS WELL THERE'D HAVE TO BE A LOT OF ROOMS


IF YOU DO BECOME A STAR WHEN YOU DIE EVEN IF YOU CAN'T REACH OUT AND TOUCH ANYONE YOU'LL HAVE AN INFINITE NUMBER OF FRIENDS SHINING ALL AROUND YOU.

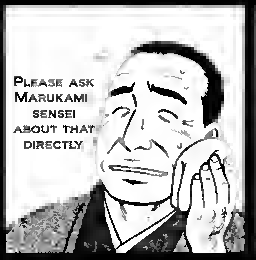
……
And what about other creatures? Humans aren't the only ones that die so cows and pigs and birds and bugs and the fish we ate earlier would also—
That's fine You're kind of amazing Nanmaru—
I'm sorry I'm not being very serious am I?

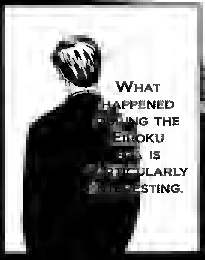
He asked me to tell you something... Takahashi, I mean...
……

But now... I think that was how he truly felt.
He didn't say it very seriously, so at first I thought he didn't mean it.
That doesn't matter... not this late...
"Next time you see her, tell her I said I'm sorry."
.....
I wish he hadn't gone to that lonely place all by himself...
It's just..

Marukami Masami-samas orders
I'm afraid I can't tell you that right now

Maru... kami...

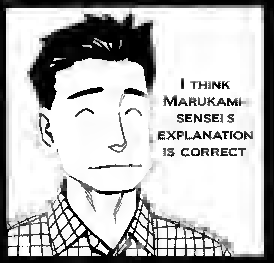

Please ask Marukami sensei about that directly

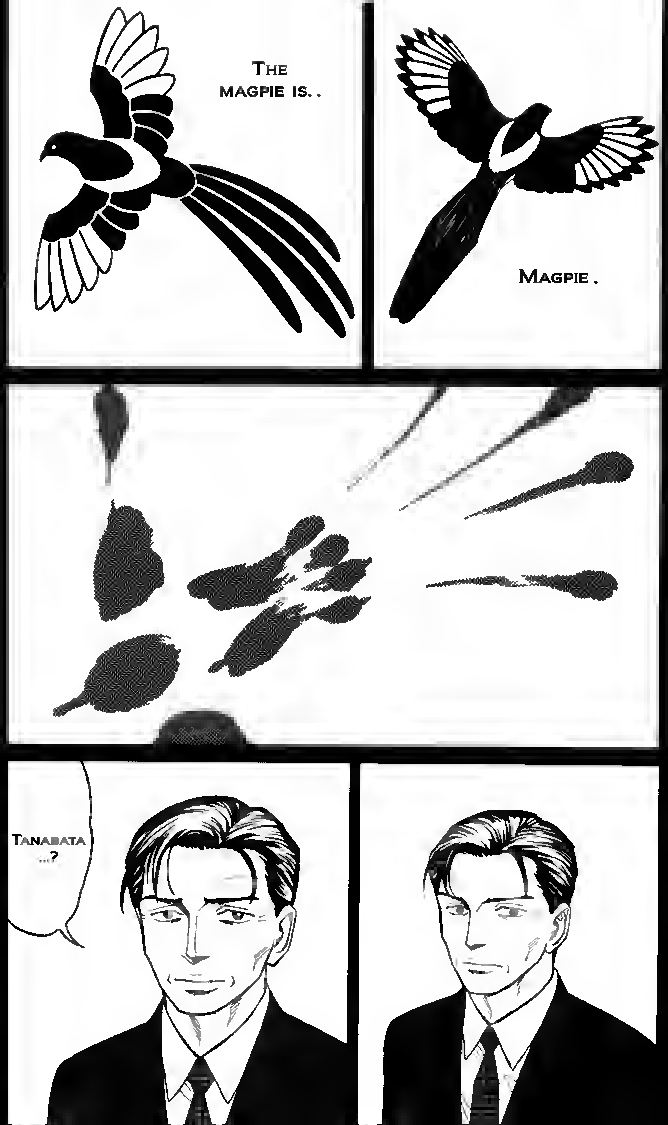

What happened during the Edoku era is particularly interesting.

Their annual festival was held as usual. starting on the 29th of April and lasting 7

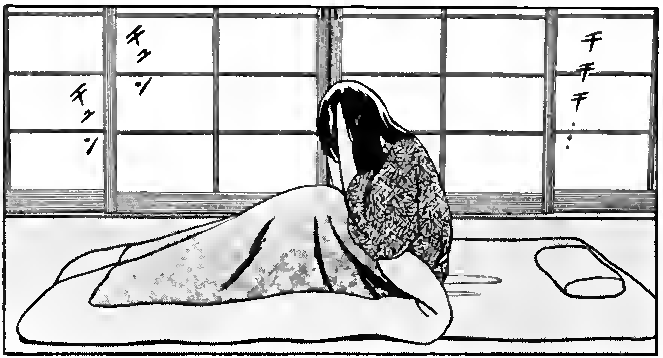
This year it starts on the 26th of April.

The order of the schedule and banner for the annual festival is strange.

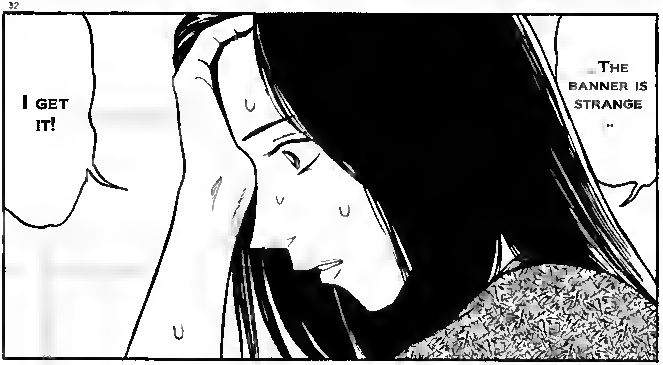



THE MAGPIE IS..
MAGPIE.
TANABATA ...?

Translation: Fatality
Cleaning: Drow22
Typesetting: StylessEnvy



32

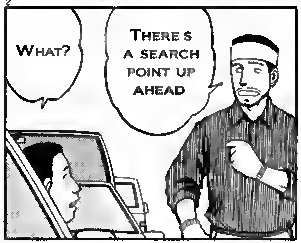


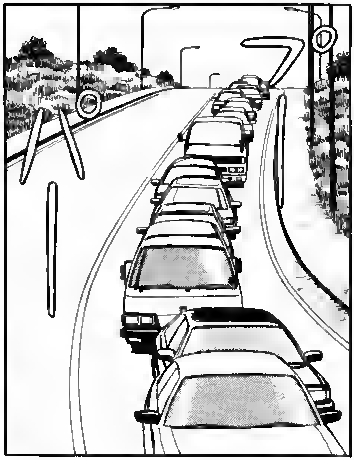
Chapter XXV

The Project Scanlations

ブォブォ
ブォブォ
ゴムゴムゴム
ゴムゴム

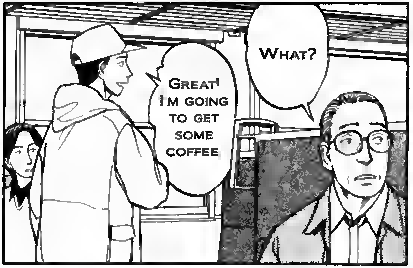
WHAT HAPPENED? WAS THERE AN ACCIDENT?

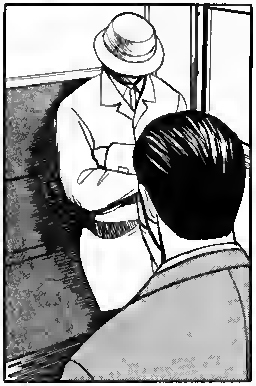

WHAT?
THERE'S A SEARCH POINT UP AHEAD



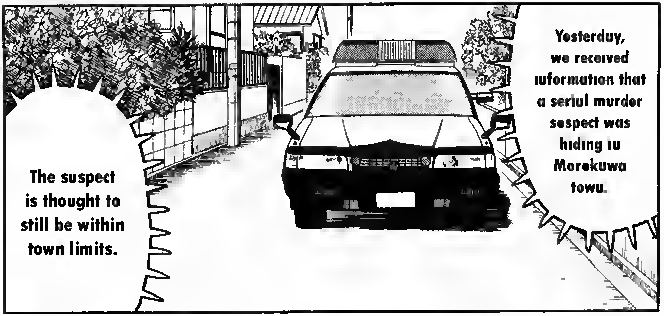
Marukowa. Marukowa. We will be stopping for ten minutes in order for a search to be performed.

Oh


What?
Great! I'm going to get some coffee

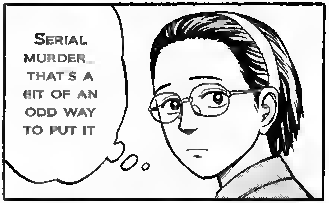


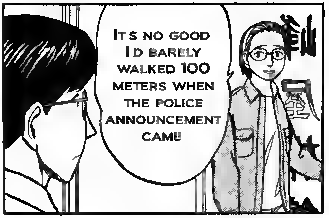
Excuse me
Guah?
Citizens of Morukawa, the Sauthern Kurane police deportment would like to request your cooperation.


Yesterday, we received information that a serial murder suspect was hiding in Morekuwa town.
The suspect is thought to still be within town limits.

And stay indoors as much as possible.

Please keep your doors locked


SERIAL MURDER... THAT'S A BIT OF AN ODD WAY TO PUT IT


IT'S NO GOOD I'D BARELY WALKED 100 METERS WHEN THE POLICE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME

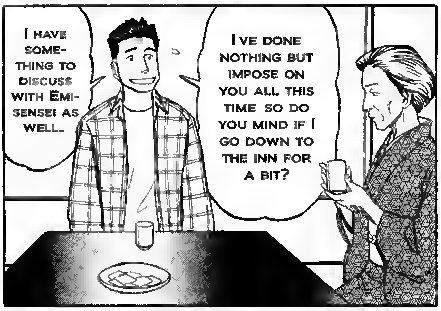
If you see anyone suspicious, contact the Southern Kurone police department immediately.

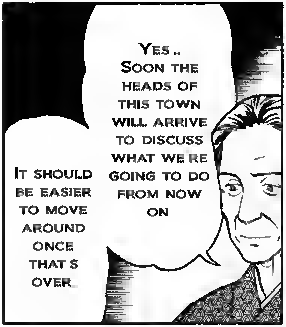
It was more like a war zone than a murder scene.
...Summing up the entire Higashimaru house tragedy as a serial murder case seems wrong.
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
!
Ah!

……
ヒソ ヒソ
EXCUSE ME
WHAT SHOULD WE DO..?
THIS COULD BE THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED 400 YEARS AGO JUST IN A DIFFERENT FORM
THEN LET'S COME UP WITH SOMETHING SOMETHING WE CAN DO
..TO SPEAK WITH THE TOWNSPEOPLE AND FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT THEN COME UP WITH A WAY TO STOP IT..
WHAT DID WE COME HERE FOR?

Uh...

.....


I have something to discuss with Emi-sensei as well...
I've done nothing but impose on you all this time so do you mind if I go down to the inn for a bit?


Yes.. Soon the heads of this town will arrive to discuss what we're going to do from now on
It should be easier to move around once that's over

This evening?
Could you bear with me and stay in this house just for this evening?

But of course I'll give you a call at the inn later But...

HMPH... I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T COMPLY WITH THAT.
BUT A WHILE AGO, THERE WAS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ASKING US NOT TO GO OUTSIDE..
.....
UM... HELLO, WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?
HEY WAIT!
GEEZ, WHAT A PAIN...
TO GET SOME FOOD...
I'M JUST GOING TO BUY DINNER...
HUH?

Either trembling in anger
Or quivering in fear
Right now the townspeople are..
10
We're sorry for coming at this time of the evening, but do you mind if we come in for a bit?
Now Sachiko
Okay
?

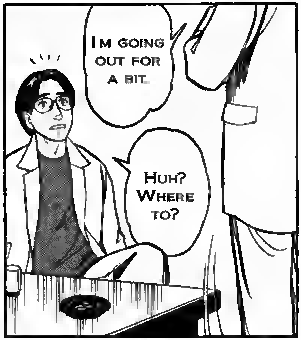
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? HOW RUDE!
WELL, EXCUSE US
I'M AFRAID I DO
AT LEAST TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF!
COME ON!

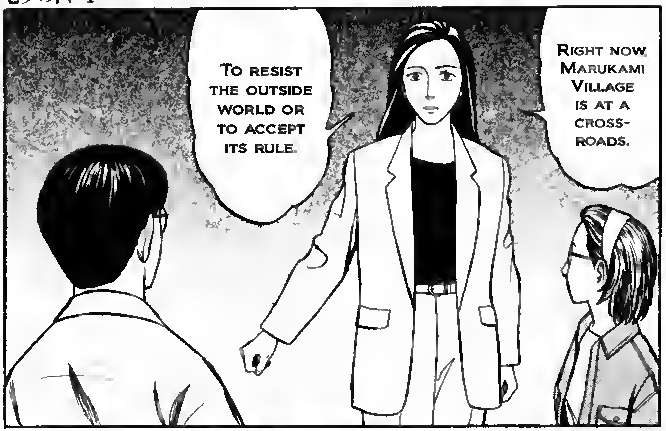
Uh... is this okay? I think this is the neighbour's garden
It's fine. I permit it.

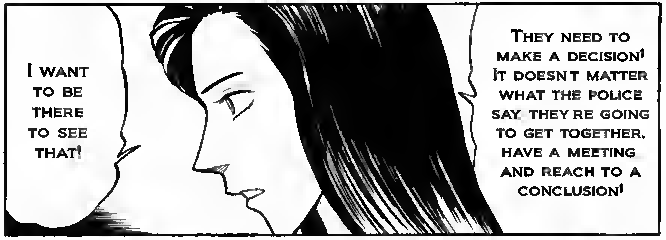
Is that so...

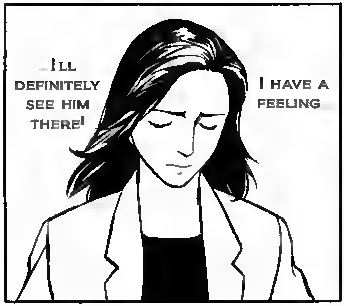
12

What for!?
A place where a gathering could be held like the public hall we went to when we got here


I'm going out for a bit.
Huh? Where to?

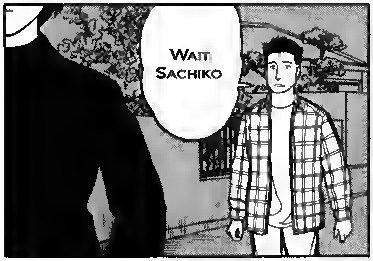

To resist the outside world or to accept its rule.
Right now, Marukami Village is at a crossroads.


I want to be there to see that!
They need to make a decision! It doesn't matter what the police say. They're going to get together, have a meeting and reach to a conclusion!


I'll definitely see him there!
I have a feeling...

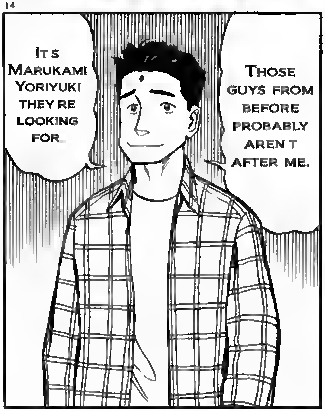
Wait! Let me come too!
Me too!

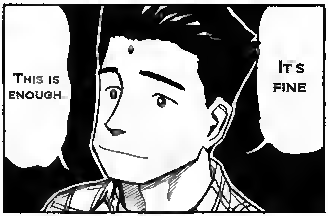
Sachiko! Where on earth are we going?
To our next hiding place.


Wait, Sachiko

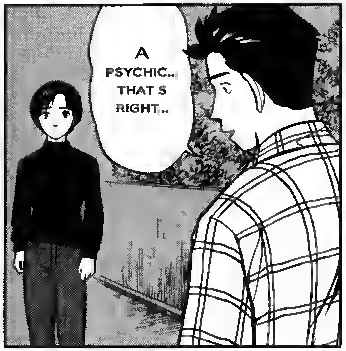
.....

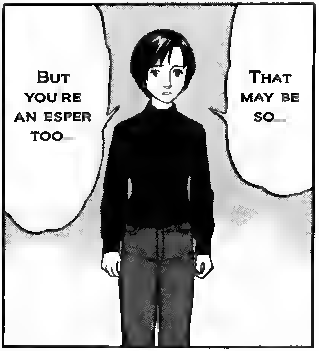
14

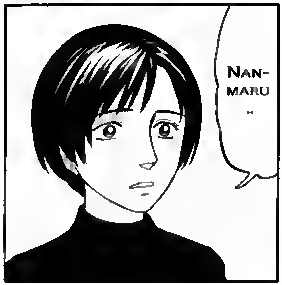

It's Marukami Yoriyuki they're looking for.
Those guys from before probably aren't after me.

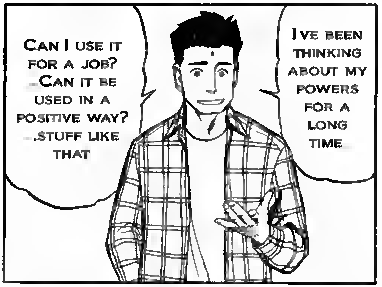

This is enough.
It's fine

Huh?

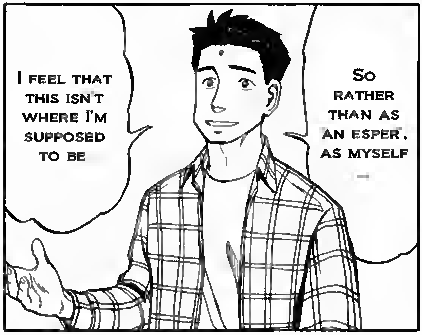

A psychic.. That's right..

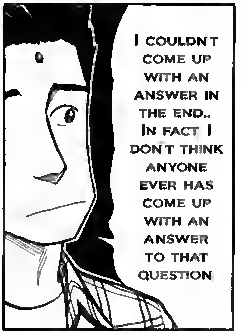

But you're an esper too...
That may be so...

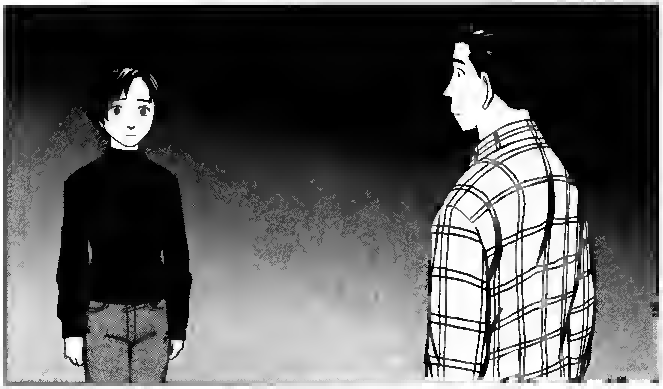

Nan-maru..

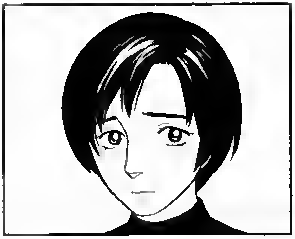

Can I use it for a job? ...Can it be used in a positive way? ...Stuff like that
I've been thinking about my powers for a long time...

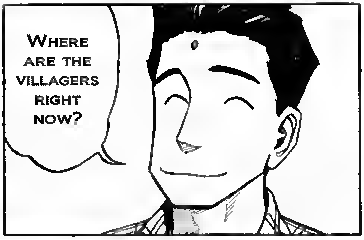
15


I feel that this isn't where I'm supposed to be
So rather than as an esper, as myself...

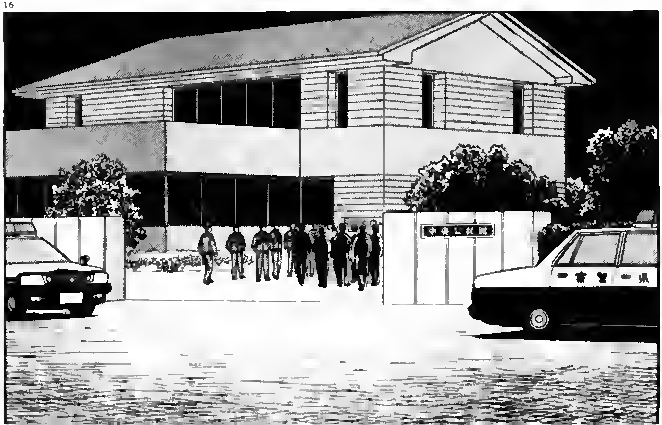

I couldn't come up with an answer in the end.. In fact I don't think anyone ever has come up with an answer to that question





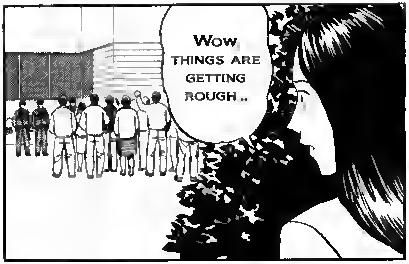


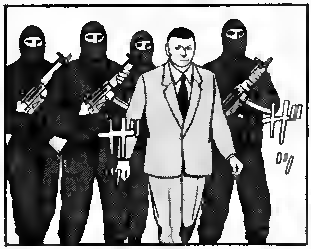
16

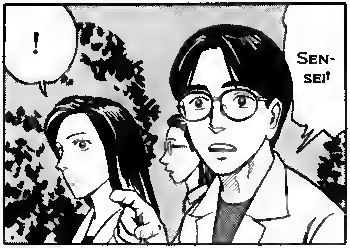


Please everyone! We ask that everyone stay at home!
They seem to be having problems
I knew they'd have a gathering The police are there too
That has nothing to do with you!
A meeting? What for?
We have an important meeting to hold!
Would you leave us alone!
Shut up! We're chasing after a murderer! You're supposed to cooperate!
Who cares!?
What!?
17
Yeah exactly!
We said outsiders should stay out!

WHAT!?
OH? WHAT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH THE MURDERER OR SOMETHING?
.....
MURDERER, MURDERER — YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE PERSON WHO KILLED THREE MEMBERS OF THE HIGASHIMARU HOUSE WITH A GUN, RIGHT? SO YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY WITH A MACHINE GUN, RIGHT?
18
BE QUIET! BE QUIET ALL OF YOU! IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP, WE'RE TAKING YOU ALL IN!
WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!
BUT PEOPLE WHO FIT THAT DESCRIPTION WERE FOUND LYING DEAD ALL OVER THE PLACE!
WHO KILLED THE HIGASHIMARUS!?
GO AND FIND THEM!


WOW. THINGS ARE GETTING ROUGH..




!
SEN-SEI!

WHO RE YOU?
!?

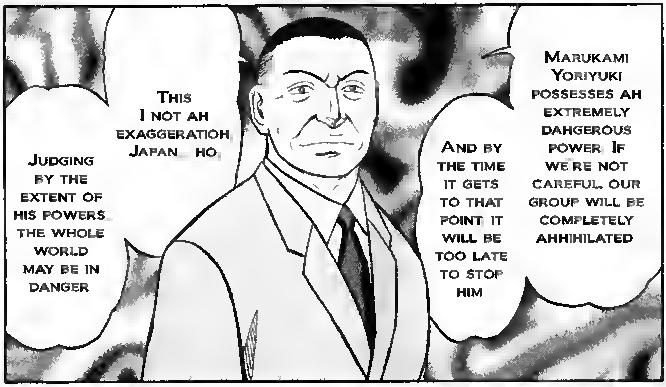
The suspicious-looking bodies you found at the Higashimaru house... did they look something like this?
Shit! You bastards!
You're the ones who killed the Higashimarus!
W-w-what are you!? Police!?
You're completely mistaken
!!
チャッ

We're only after one person—
Marukami Yoriyuki!
We would never kill innocent bystanders
You all know about him, don't you? You also know that he's responsible for the mass erasures that happened recently
You must know that.
Marukami Yoriyuki is no longer sane. Even if he is descended from the lord of this town we can no longer let him do as he pleases.

I REQUEST THAT YOU COOPERATE WITH US
IF ANYONE HAS ANY IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT BE..
OR HAS SPECIFIC INFORMATION AS TO HIS WHEREABOUTS
.....
EVEN IF WE DID KNOW, WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TELL YOU!
...EVEN IF...
22
YEAH, THEY'RE RIGHT!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, WE CAN'T BETRAY YORIYUKI!
HE'S RIGHT! WE COULDN'T!

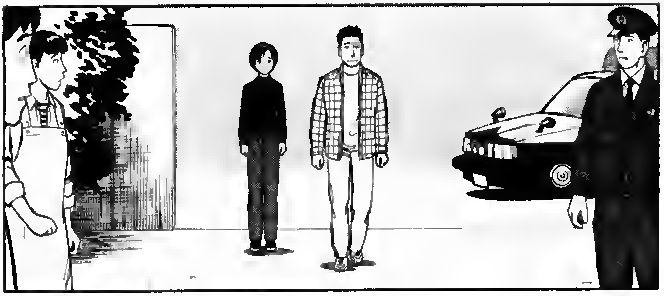
ガガ
ガ
ガ
GET OUT OF HERE!
WHO'D TELL YOU!?
ガガ
EE...

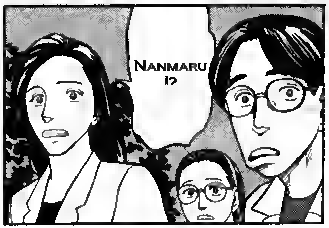
He's hot too sane himself

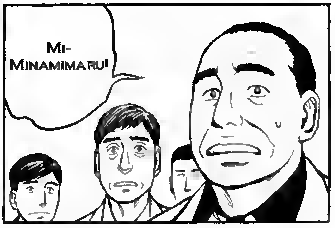

Judging by the extent of his powers, the whole world may be in danger
This I not ah exaggeration Japan_ ho_
And by the time it gets to that point it will be too late to stop him
Marukami Yoriyuki possesses ah extremely dangerous power. If we're not careful, our group will be completely ahhihilated

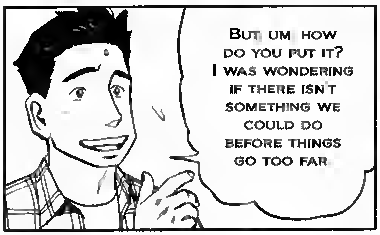
24

Are you sure you're not exaggerating even a little?




Nanmaru is?

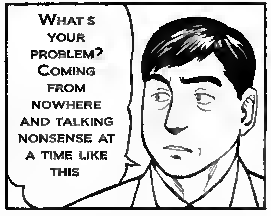

Mi-Minamimaru!

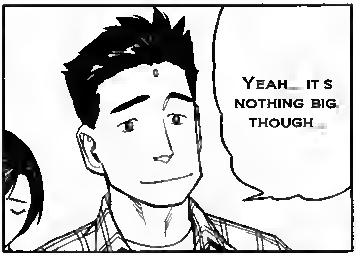

But um how do you put it? I was wondering if there isn't something we could do before things go too far

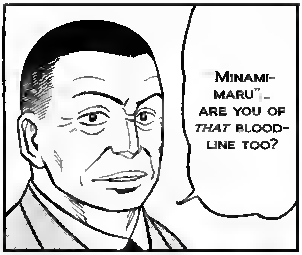
Ah sorry for interrupting

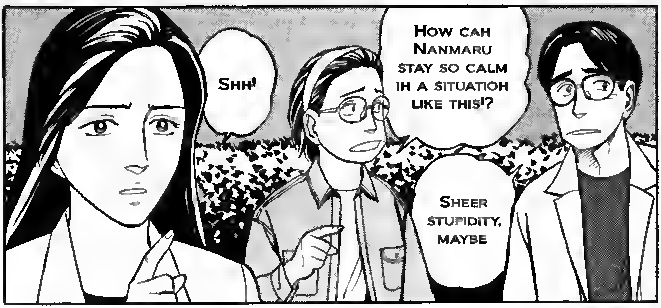
Huh?

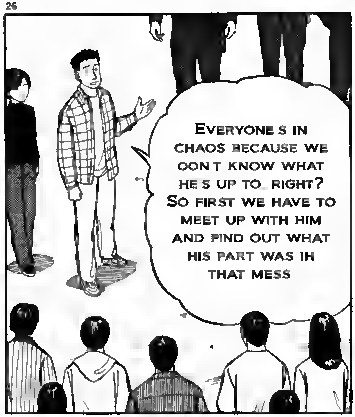
Be quiet! You're being disrespectful!

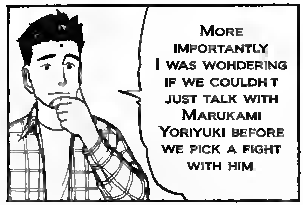

What's your problem? Coming from nowhere and talking nonsense at a time like this

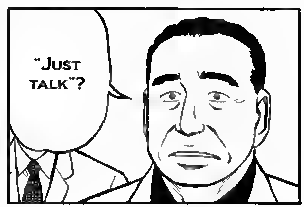

YEAH_ IT'S NOTHING BIG THOUGH_


MINAMI-MARU"- ARE YOU OF *THAT* BLOOD-LINE TOO?

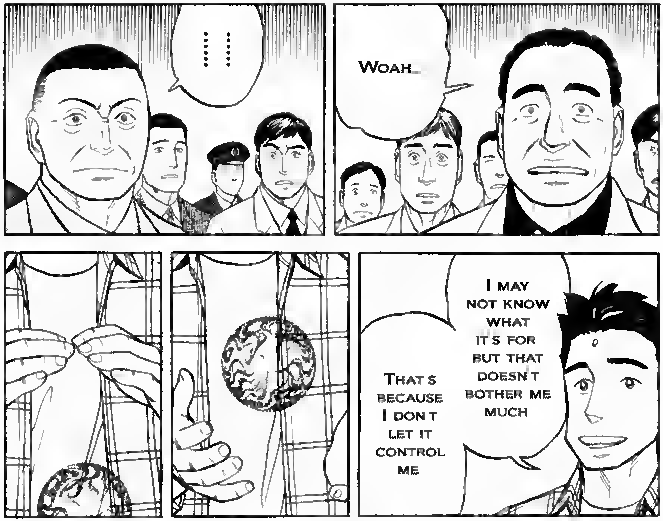

SHH!
HOW CAN NANMARU STAY SO CALM IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS!?
SHEER STUPIDITY, MAYBE

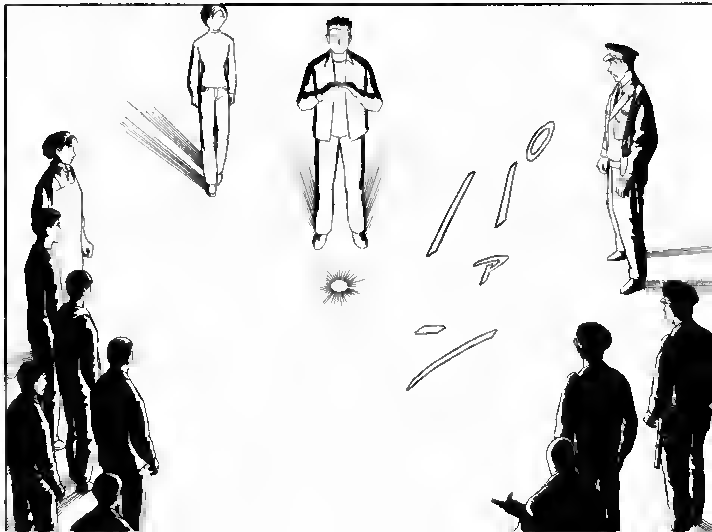

EVERYONE'S IN CHAOS BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO. RIGHT? SO FIRST WE HAVE TO MEET UP WITH HIM AND FIND OUT WHAT HIS PART WAS IN THAT MESS

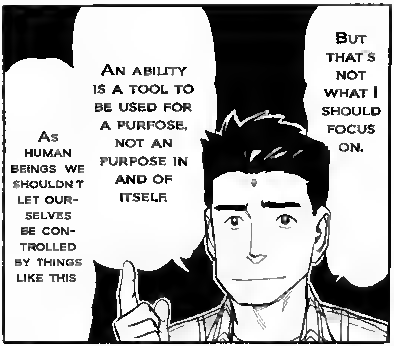

MORE IMPORTANTLY I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULDN'T JUST TALK WITH MARUKAMI YORIYUKI BEFORE WE PICK A FIGHT WITH HIM

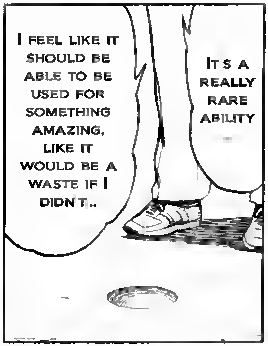

"JUST TALK"?

We somehow try to avoid the worst case scenario Then of course we have arrest him
That s ridiculous
And then what?
That s why I still don t know what this is for...
..I knew it, in the end you re an outsider too!
I am an outsider
Ah...

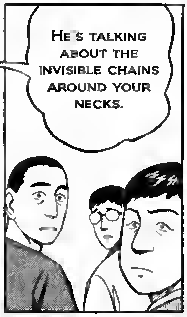

.....
Woah...
I may not know what it's for but that doesn't bother me much
That's because I don't let it control me

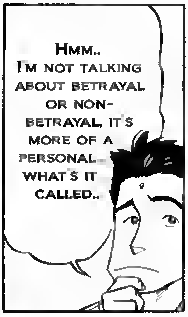


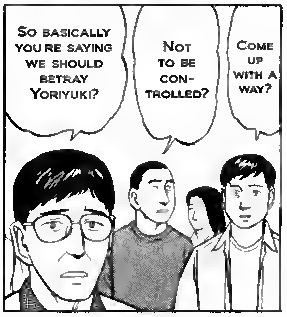

As human beings we shouldn't let ourselves be controlled by things like this
An ability is a tool to be used for a purpose, not an purpose in and of itself
But that's not what I should focus on.


I feel like it should be able to be used for something amazing, like it would be a waste if I didn't..
It's a really rare ability

If you guys are being controlled by some unseen force, you need to come up with a way out of your situation
In the same way.. well. I'm not really sure about this but..


He's talking about the invisible chains around your necks.


Hmm.. I'm not talking about betrayal or non-betrayal, it's more of a personal- what's it called..


So basically you're saying we should betray Yoriyuki?
Not to be controlled?
Come up with a way?

WHAT!?
MA-MARU-KAMI-SENSEI!

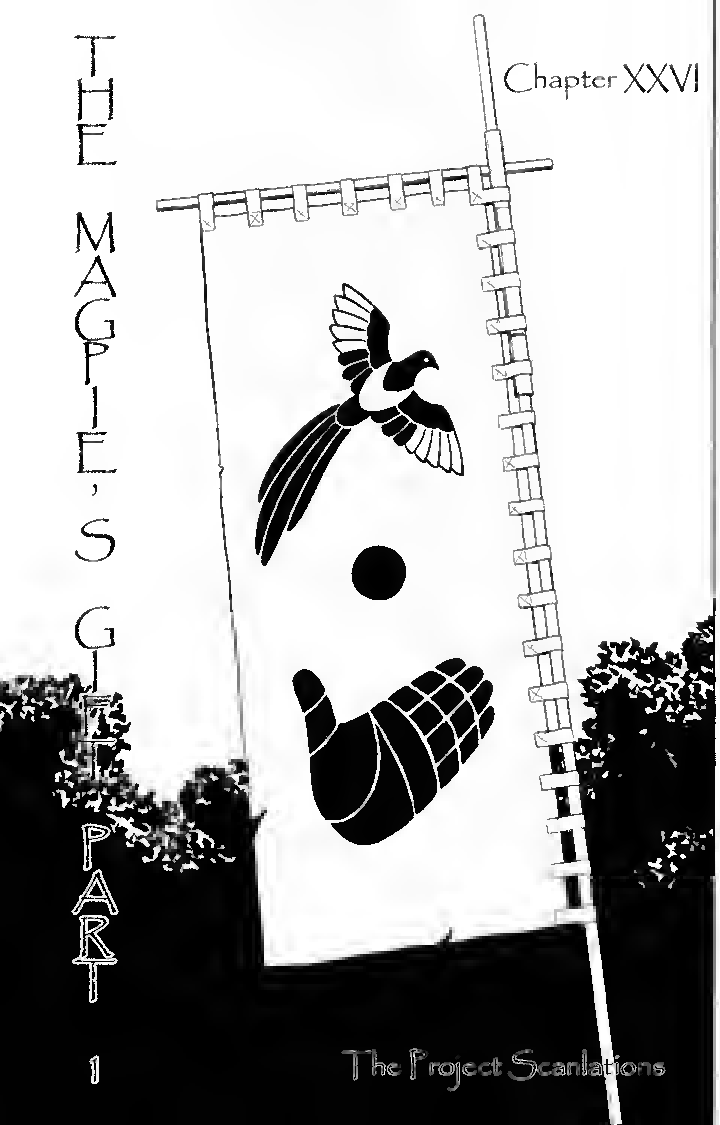
So there's another Maru-kami...
That's him...?
Yes.
Minami-maru Youji is it?
Maru-kami-sensei...
Sensei...

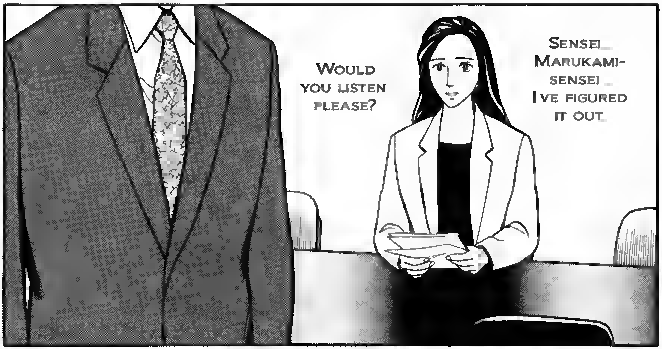
EMI...

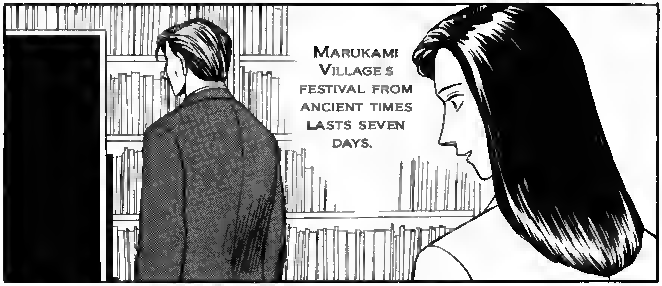
SENSEI!

THE MAGPIE'S GIFT PART 1

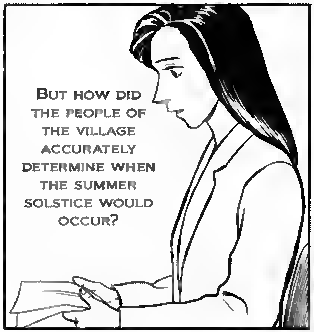
Chapter XXVI

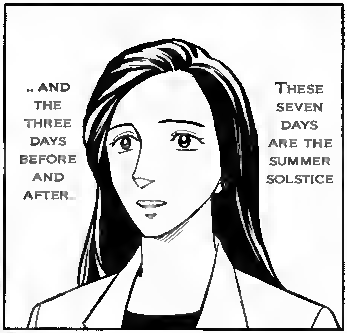


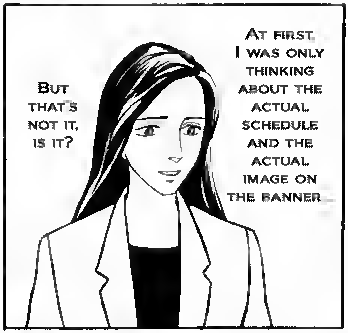

Would you listen please?
Sensei... Marukami-sensei... I've figured it out.

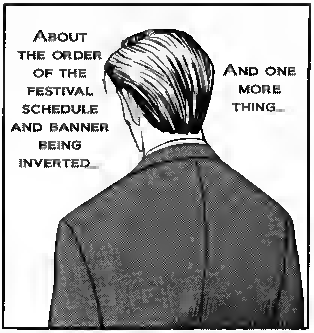

Marukami Village's festival from ancient times lasts seven days.

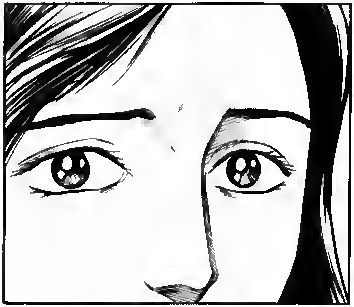
2

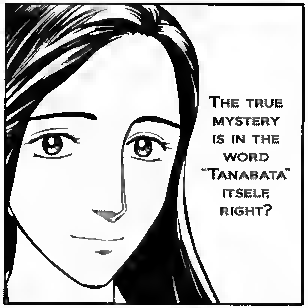

But how did the people of the village accurately determine when the summer solstice would occur?


.. and the three days before and after...
These seven days are the summer solstice


At first, I was only thinking about the actual schedule and the actual image on the banner...
But that's not it, is it?

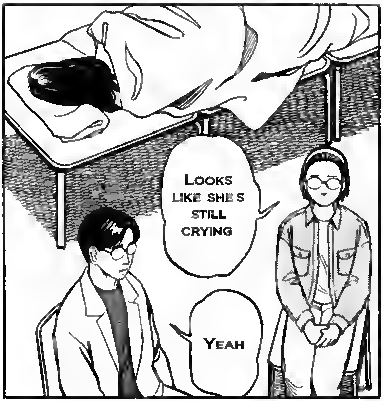

About the order of the festival schedule and banner being inverted...
And one more thing...




The true mystery is in the word "Tanabata" itself, right?

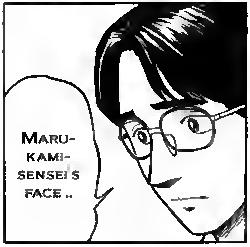
3

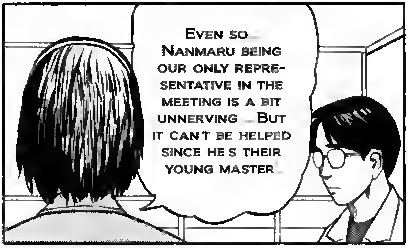
...It's shock

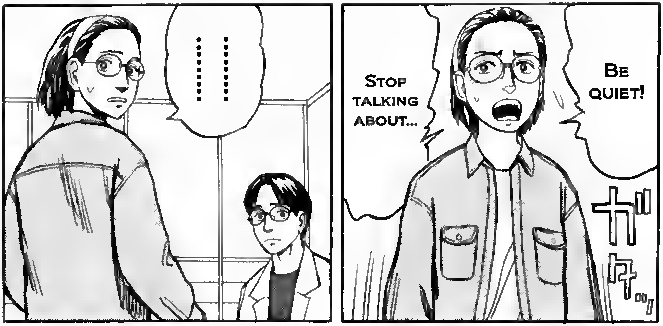

Looks like she's still crying
Yeah

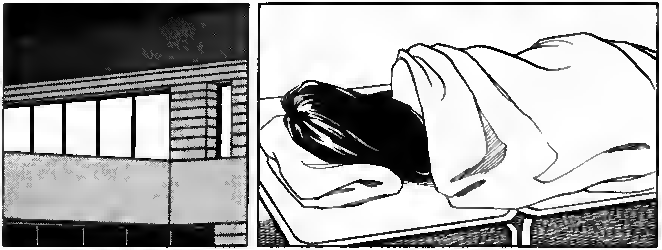
Well obvious-ly!

4


Maru-kami-sensei's face..

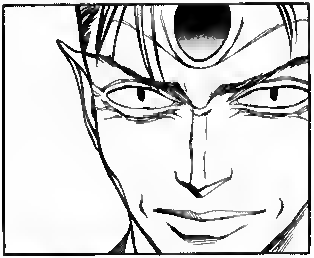

Even so... Nanmaru being our only representative in the meeting is a bit unnerving... But it can't be helped since he's their young master...

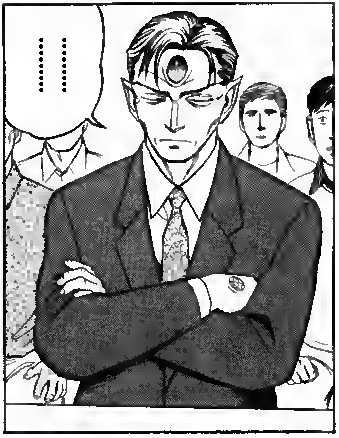

……
STOP TALKING ABOUT...
BE QUIET!
ガバッ



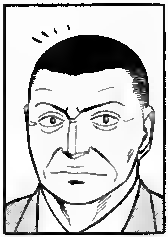
I DO
SO DO YOU HAVE ANY CLUE WHAT HIS MOTIVES MIGHT BE?

It has to do with the elder Higashimaru's last words
Maru... Kami.
If you don't stop Yori-yuki..
What makes you think that?
Maru-kami Moun-tain..?
The last Marukami I believe he was referring to a place not a person. He probably meant Marukami Village or Marukami Mountain.
I don't understand either. Sensei Why a place?




……

ギク



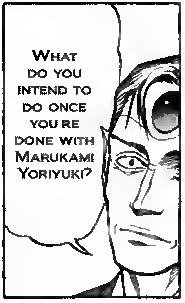
YES I'LL ASK YOU
BUT FIRST

……

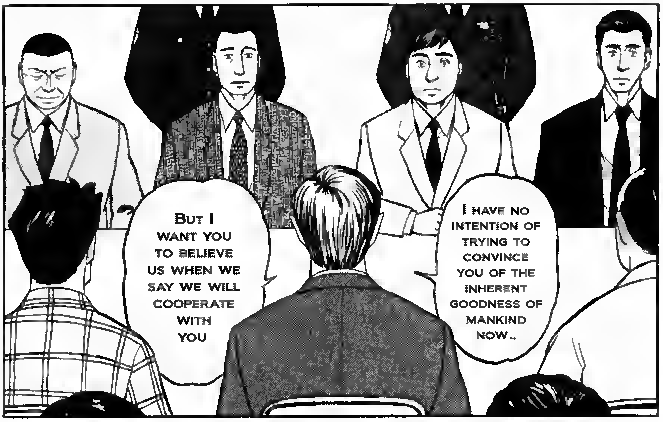
U-Us TOO

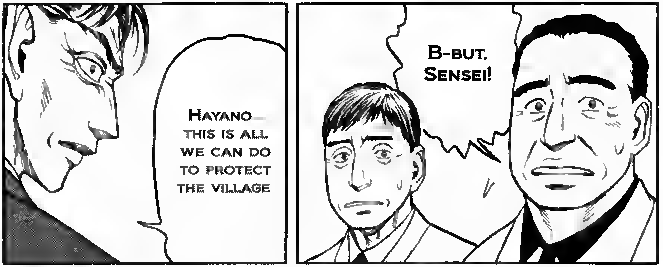
HOW ABOUT YOU, OFFICERS?

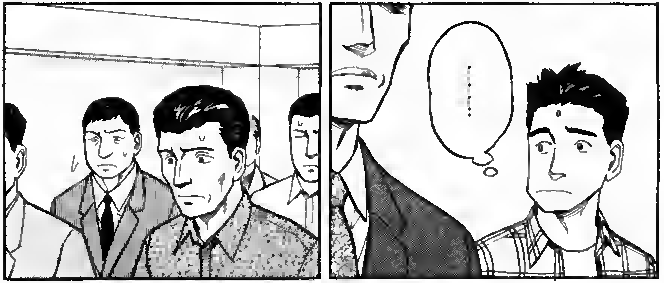
OUR MISSION WILL END THERE


WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO ONCE YOU'RE DONE WITH MARUKAMI YORIYUKI?

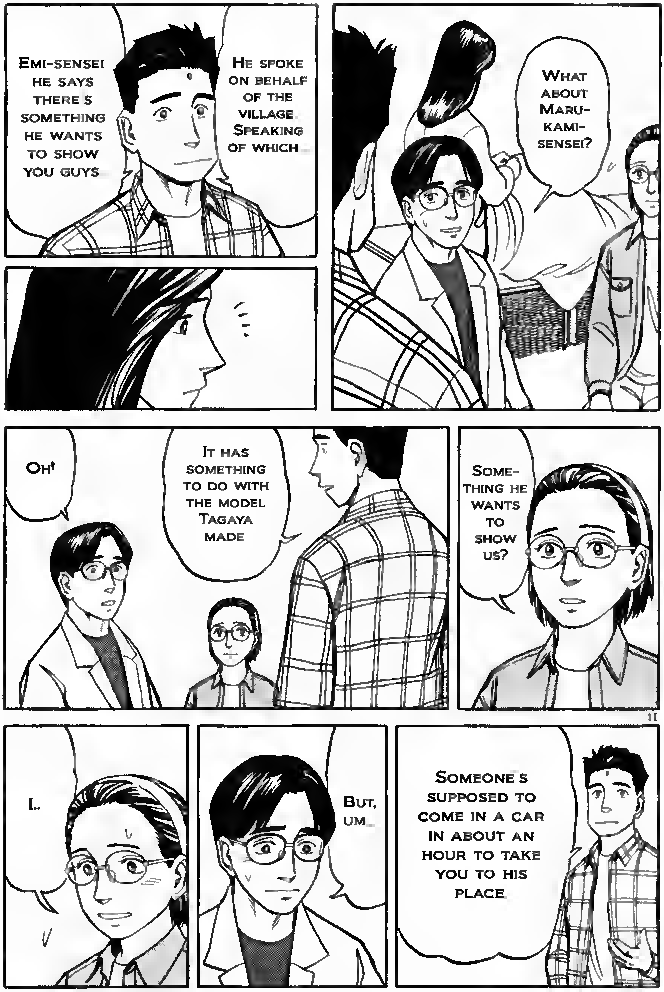
HUH?
ARE YOU AWARE OF HUMAN CLONING?
.....
AS DARK DREAMS THEY HAVE NO LIMIT, BUT WERE ANY OF THOSE IDEAS TO BECOME REAL, IT WOULD STOP US ALL IN OUR TRACKS.
TAKE CLONING, FOR INSTANCE CREATING HEADLESS HUMANS, CLONES FOR USE AS PERSONAL SPARE ORGAN CONTAINERS HAS BEEN CONSIDERED
LET ME PUT IT SIMPLY THERE EXIST RARE TECHNOLOGIES, AND A GREAT NUMBER OF POSSIBLE USES FOR THEM
WE WILL NEVER LEAVE THIS VILLAGE AGAIN MARUKAMI YORIYUKI IS OUR ONE AND ONLY EXCEPTION.
RIGHT, NANMARU ?
EH? UH, YEAH

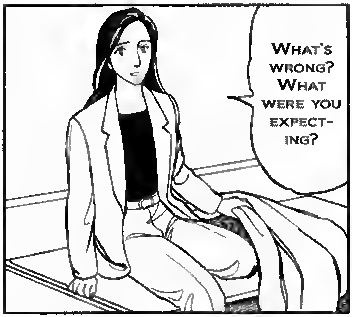

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TRYING TO CONVINCE YOU OF THE INHERENT GOODNESS OF MANKIND NOW..
BUT I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE US WHEN WE SAY WE WILL COOPERATE WITH YOU


B-BUT, SENSEI!
HAYANO— THIS IS ALL WE CAN DO TO PROTECT THE VILLAGE

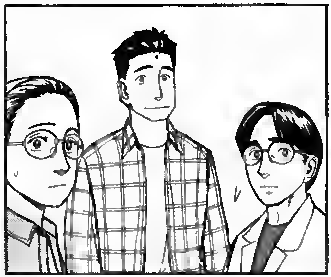

.....

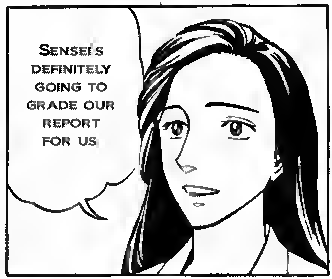
NANMARU
I
チャッ
I'M BACK
I'M FINE NOW SORRY FOR BEING A BOTHER
HOW'S EMI-SENSEI?
CAPTURE I WONDER IF IT'S GOING TO END THAT PEACEFULLY
THE WHOLE VILLAGE IS GOING TO ASSIST IN THE CAPTURE OF MARUKAMI YORIYUKI.
IT'S OVER
SO HOW ABOUT THE MEETING ?
UM
SO
WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE EITHER WAY

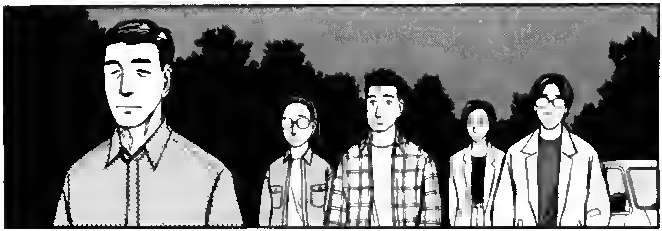

Emi-sensei! He says there's something he wants to show you guys.
He spoke on behalf of the village. Speaking of which...
What about Maru-kami-sensei?
Oh!
It has something to do with the model Tagaya made.
Some-thing he wants to show us?
I...
But, um...
Someone's supposed to come in a car in about an hour to take you to his place.

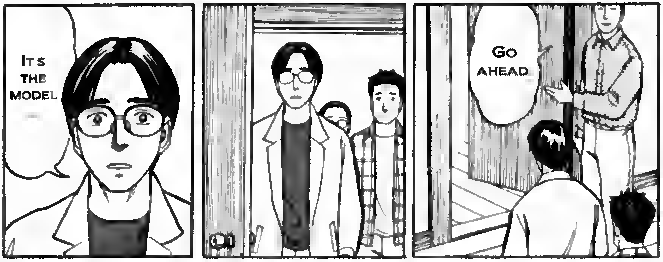

What's wrong? What were you expecting?

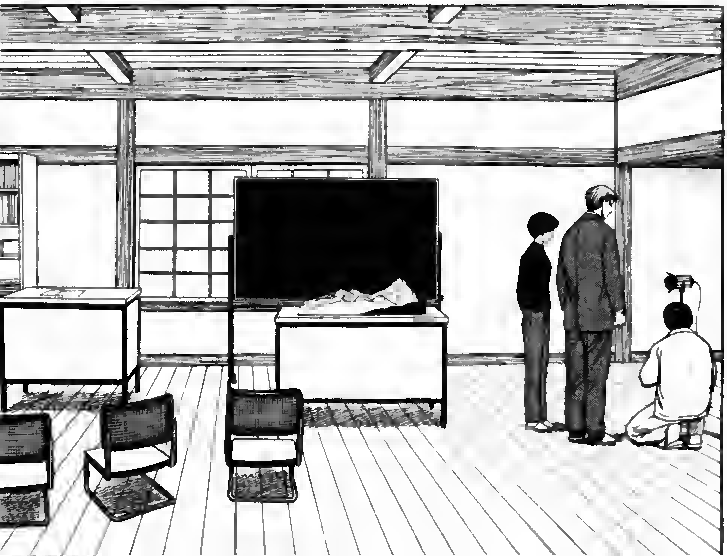
We'll go.

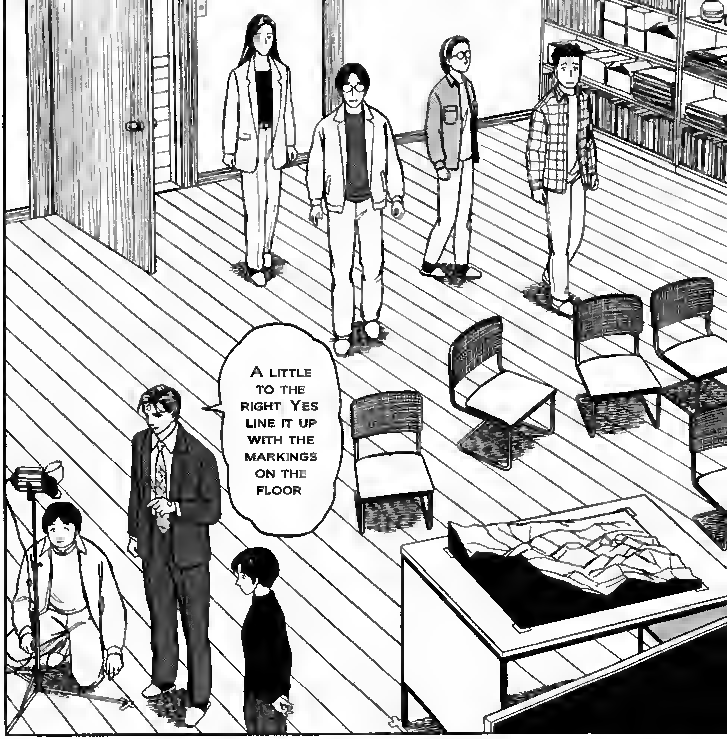


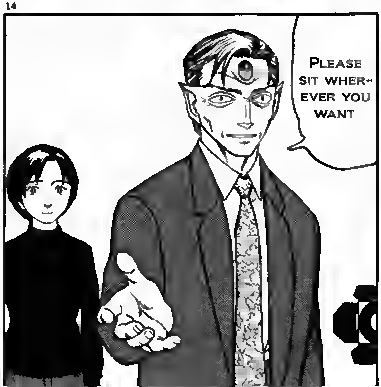

Sensei's definitely going to grade our report for us.

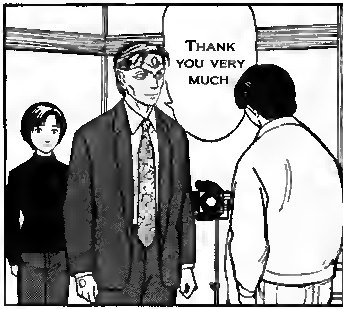


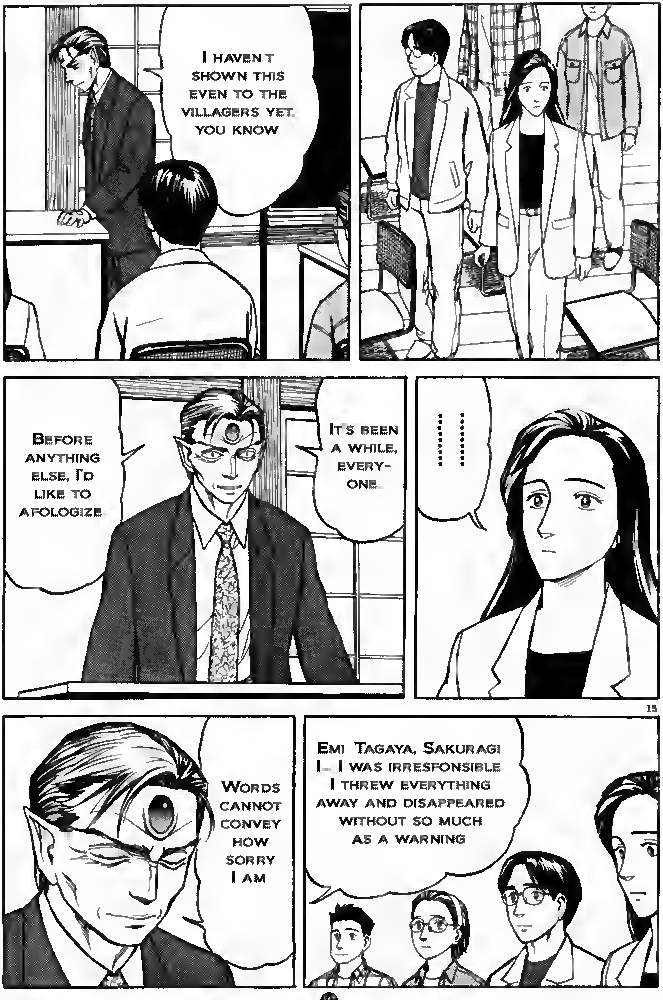

It's THE MODEL
GO AHEAD

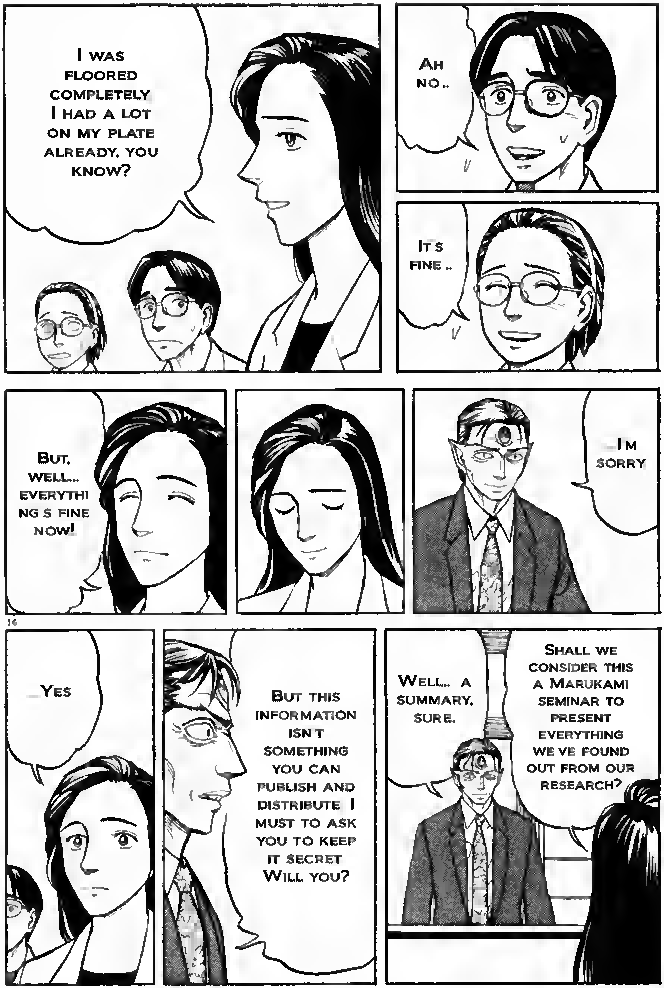


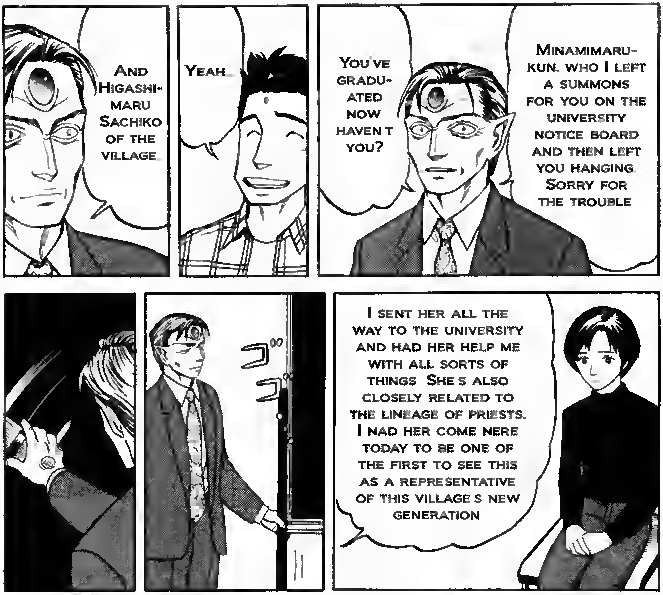

A little to the right Yes line it up with the markings on the floor


Please sit wherever you want

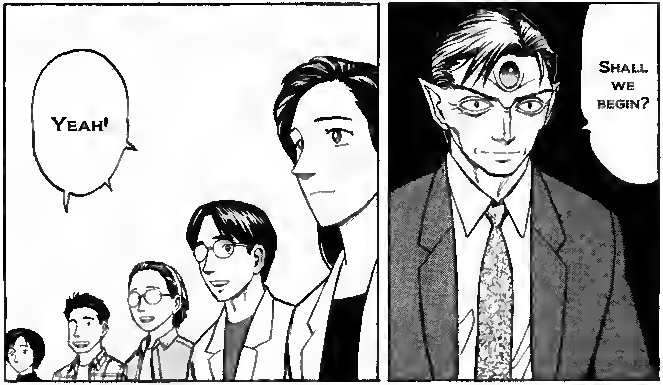

Thank you very much


I haven't shown this even to the villagers yet, you know
It's been a while, everyone.
Before anything else, I'd like to apologize
.....
Words cannot convey how sorry I am
Emi Tagaya, Sakuragi I— I was irresponsible. I threw everything away and disappeared without so much as a warning


I WAS FLOORED COMPLETELY I HAD A LOT ON MY PLATE ALREADY, YOU KNOW?
AH NO..
IT'S FINE..
BUT, WELL... EVERYTHI NG S FINE NOW!
I'M SORRY
YES
BUT THIS INFORMATION ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE I MUST TO ASK YOU TO KEEP IT SECRET WILL YOU?
WELL... A SUMMARY, SURE.
SHALL WE CONSIDER THIS A MARUKAMI SEMINAR TO PRESENT EVERYTHING WE'VE FOUND OUT FROM OUR RESEARCH?

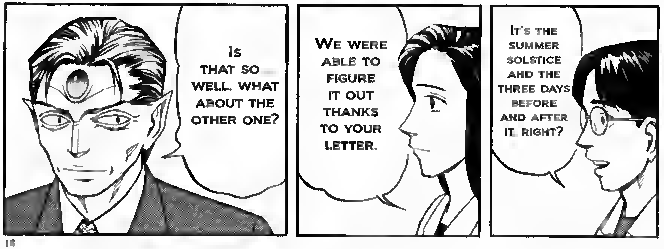

And Higashi-maru Sachiko of the village
Yeah...
You've gradu-ated now haven't you?
Minamimaru-kun. who I left a summons for you on the university notice board and then left you hanging. Sorry for the trouble
コ゛コ゛
I sent her all the way to the university and had her help me with all sorts of things. She's also closely related to the lineage of priests. I had her come here today to be one of the first to see this as a representative of this village's new generation

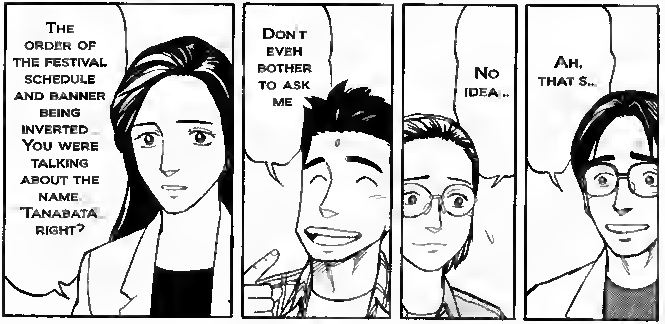
17

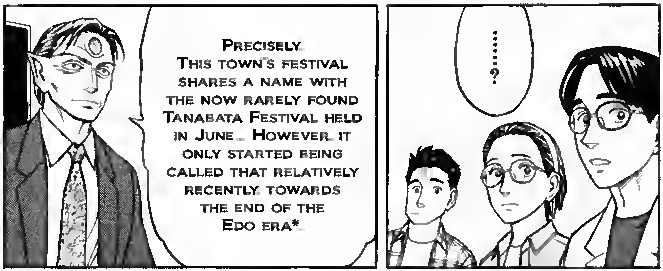

Yeah!
Shall we begin?

Marukami Village's ancient festival lasts 7 days. The festival is said to have originated about 1000 years ago in the middle of the Heian era* but there seems to have been a 7 day-long festival around for quite a while before that. Why 7 days?
First a review

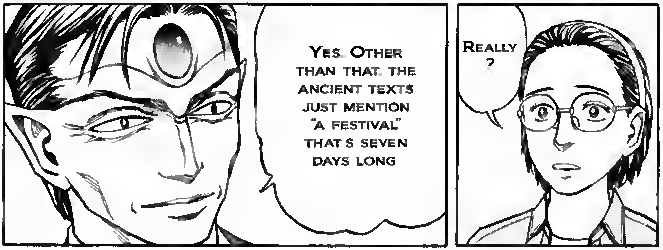
*794-1185 AD

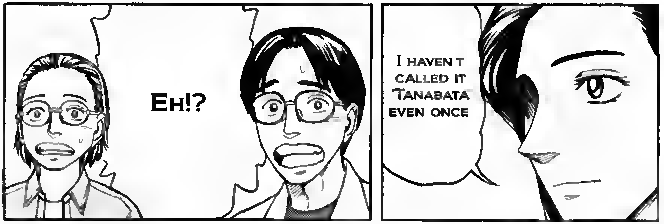

Is that so... Well, what about the other one?
We were able to figure it out thanks to your letter.
It's the summer solstice and the three days before and after it, right?


The order of the festival schedule and banner being inverted... You were talking about the name "Tanabata", right?
Don't even bother to ask me
No idea..
Ah, that's..

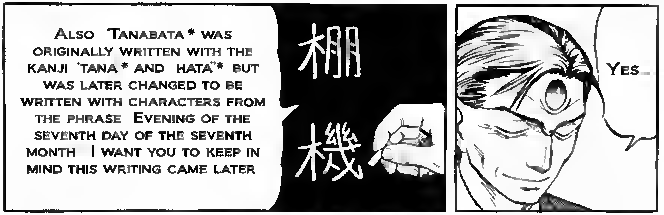

Precisely. This town's festival shares a name with the now rarely found Tanabata Festival held in June... However, it only started being called that relatively recently. Towards the end of the Edo era*.
.....?

*1603-1868 AD



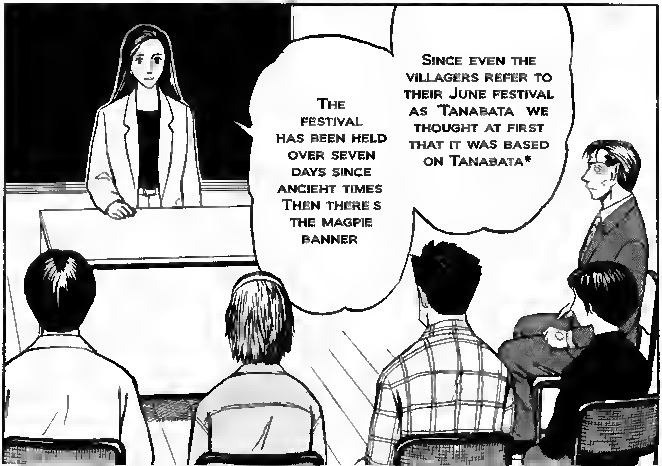


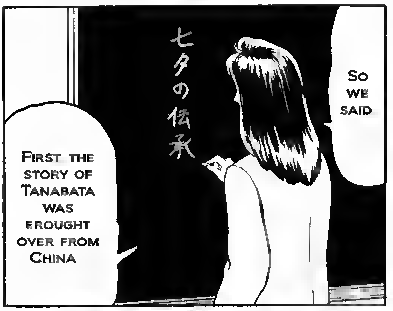
19

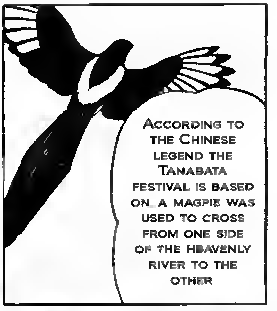

Also "Tanabata" was originally written with the kanji "tana" and "hata" but was later changed to be written with characters from the phrase "Evening of the seventh day of the seventh month". I want you to keep in mind this writing came later
棚
機
Yes...

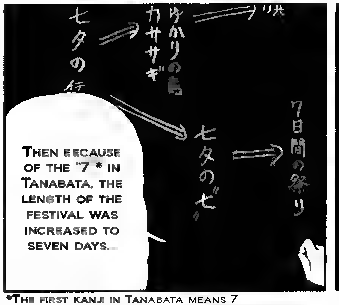
T/L Note: Here and everywhere else in this manga, "Tanabata" is written with kanji meaning "seven" and "evening". The kanji Prof. Marukami mentions and writes on the board refer to a type of loom as well as the festival. Wikipedia's page on Tanabata has more info.

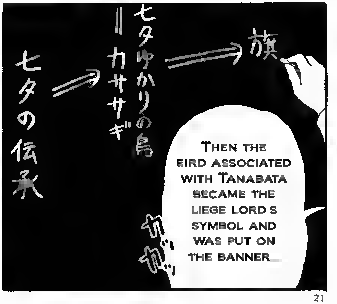
*THE TANABATA FESTIVAL IS USUALLY HELD ON THE 7TH OF JULY OR SOMETIME IN AUGUST


SINCE EVEN THE VILLAGERS REFER TO THEIR JUNE FESTIVAL AS TANABATA WE THOUGHT AT FIRST THAT IT WAS BASED ON TANABATA*
THE FESTIVAL HAS BEEN HELD OVER SEVEN DAYS SINCE ANCIENT TIMES THEN THERE S THE MAGPIE BANNER

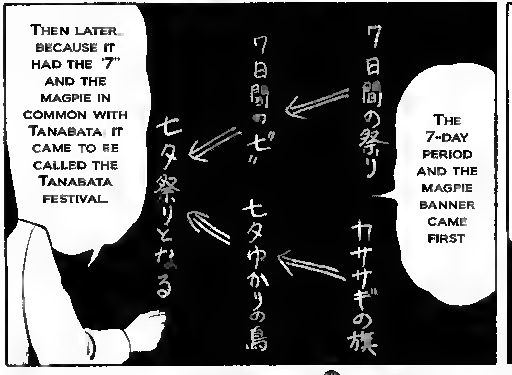


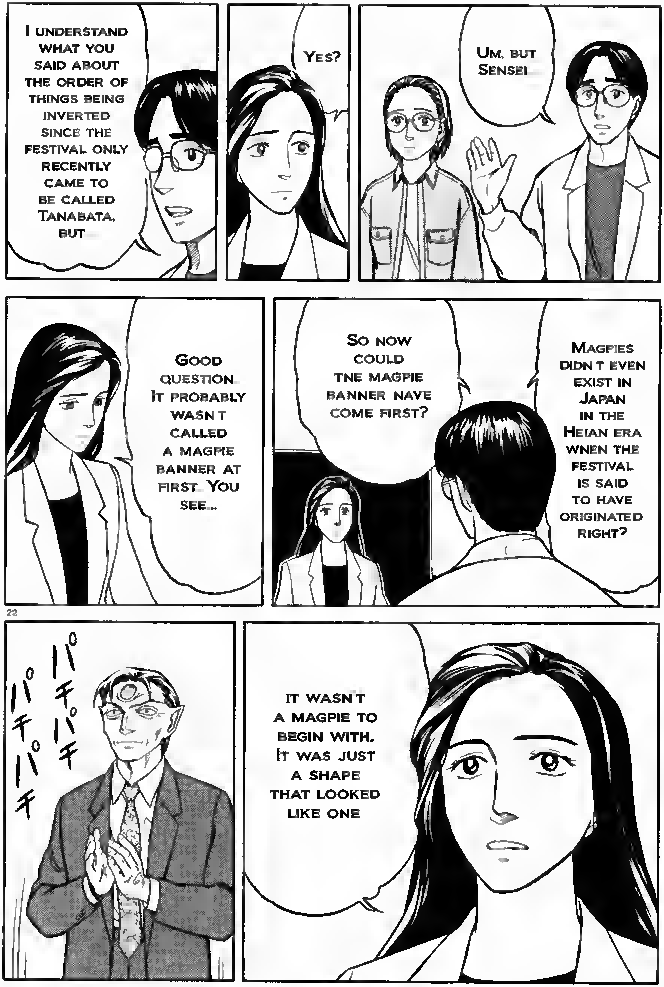

According to the Chinese legend the Tanabata festival is based on a magpie was used to cross from one side of the heavenly river to the other



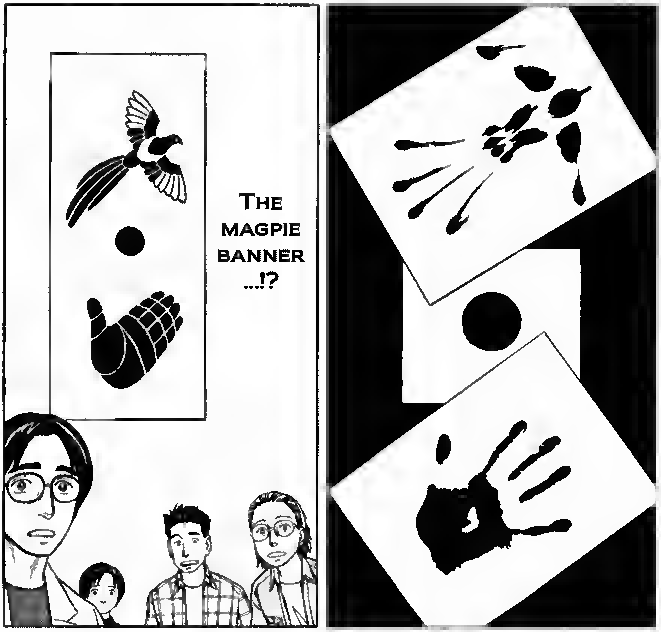


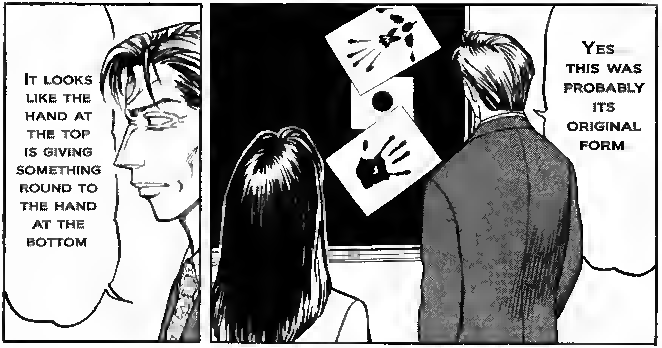
*The first kanji in Tanabata means 7


Then later, because it had the "7" and the magpie in common with Tanabata, it came to be called the Tanabata festival.
7日間の祭り
7日間の七
七夕祭りとなる
カササギの旗
七夕ゆかりの鳥
The 7-day period and the magpie banner came first


I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE ORDER OF THINGS BEING INVERTED SINCE THE FESTIVAL ONLY RECENTLY CAME TO BE CALLED TANABATA, BUT...
YES?
UM, BUT SENSEI
GOOD QUESTION. IT PROBABLY WASN'T CALLED A MAGPIE BANNER AT FIRST. YOU SEE...
SO NOW COULD THE MAGPIE BANNER HAVE COME FIRST?
MAGPIES DIDN'T EVEN EXIST IN JAPAN IN THE HEIAN ERA WHEN THE FESTIVAL IS SAID TO HAVE ORIGINATED RIGHT?
パチパチ
パチパチ
IT WASN'T A MAGPIE TO BEGIN WITH. IT WAS JUST A SHAPE THAT LOOKED LIKE ONE

UWAH!
TAGAYA-KUN, IF YOU WOULD...
ON THIS SHEET OF PAPER A CIRCLE...
PLACE YOUR HAND-PRINT HERE
THIS IS THE HAND PRINT MARUKAMI YORIYUKI LEFT BEHIND IN THE HIGASHIMARU HOUSE THE OTHER DAY ARRANGE THE THREE PIECES OF PAPER LIKE THIS AND WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
AND YOU'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE HAVEN'T YOU EMI?
23
YES !


THE MAGPIE BANNER ...!?


IT LOOKS LIKE THE HAND AT THE TOP IS GIVING SOMETHING ROUND TO THE HAND AT THE BOTTOM
YES THIS WAS PROBABLY ITS ORIGINAL FORM

This was how it all started!

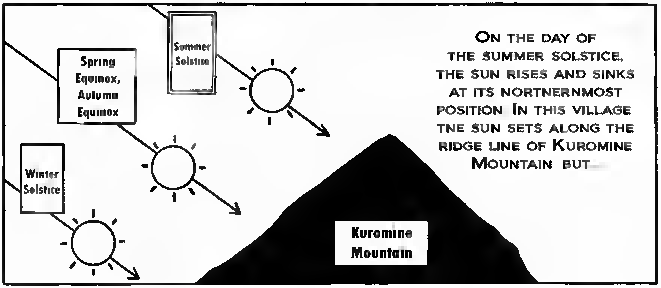
25

Sense anything... hmm...
did you notice sense when you were making this?
And finally the model... Tagaya...

The people of Marukami village knew the exact moment of the summer solstice and were holding a 7 day-long festival around it long before the before the Gregorian calendar was even invented. Tney still do

Yeah. You mentioned that

Come to think of it I felt like there was something strange about the 7 peaks when I was making them Something about them felt.. man-made.



On the day of the summer solstice, the sun rises and sinks at its nortnernmost position. In this village tne sun sets along the ridge line of Kuromine Mountain but...

26

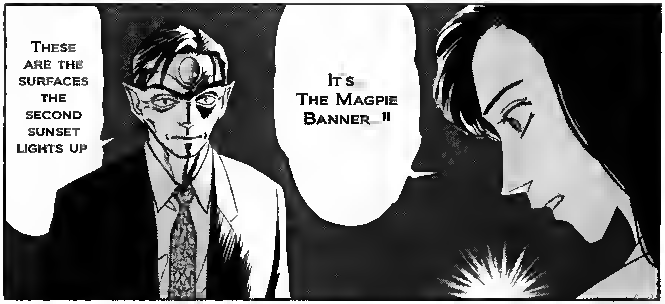
Because of the height of Kuromine Mountain. the sun usually sets very quickly around here However, on the 7 days around summer solstice alone and from just a few places you can see a second sunset.

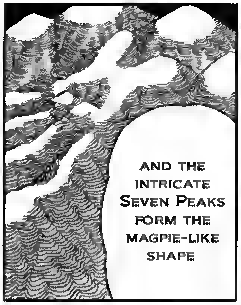
That s because of this gap.

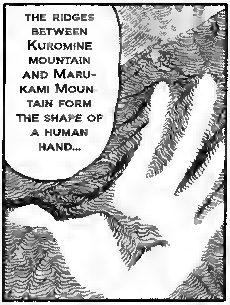
Look at this Tnere's a gap in the north face of Kuromine Mountain that forms a cliff

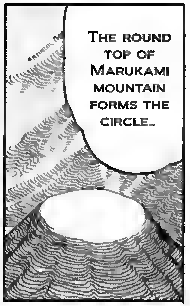
HAVE YOU REALIZED ANY-THING?
A SECOND SUNSET..
AH...
SO IT'S NOT THE EVENING OF THE SEVENTH DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH IT'S "SEVEN EVENINGS"!
TANA-BATA*!?
THE EVEN-INGS OF SEVEN DAYS...
HM? THE SECOND SUNSET ONLY APPEARS FOR 7 DAYS..
*KANJI CAN BE LITERALLY READ "SEVEN EVENINGS"
THIS LIGHT IS SET TO EMULATE THE POSITION OF THE SUN ON THE "SECOND SUNSET" THAT OCCURS DURING THE SUMMER SOLSTICE
TURN THE LIGHTS OFF PLEASE
I SEE... "SEVEN" AND "EVENING"... SO THAT'S WHY THEY CALLED IT THE TANABATA FESTIVAL!
27

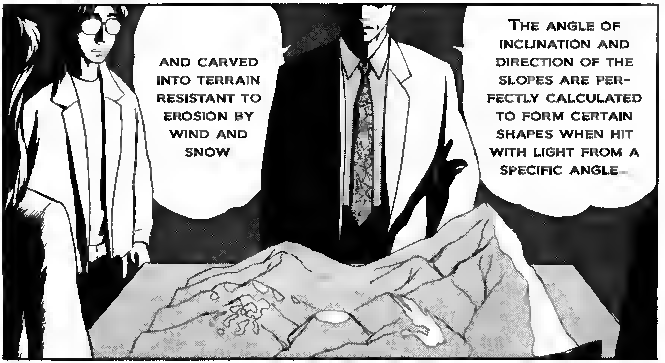
OH!


These are the surfaces the second sunset lights up
It's The Magpie Banner!!


and the intricate Seven Peaks form the magpie-like shape


the ridges between Kuromine mountain and Marukami Mountain form the shape of a human hand...


The round top of Marukami mountain forms the circle...


and carved into terrain resistant to erosion by wind and snow
The angle of inclination and direction of the slopes are perfectly calculated to form certain shapes when hit with light from a specific angle...

Then who...

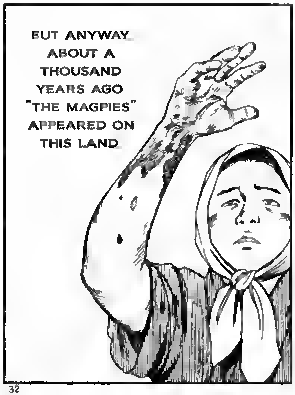
There's no way, of course, that it could have been made by man

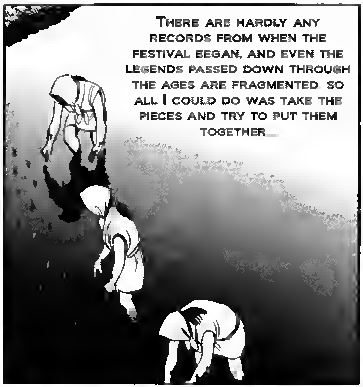
You could say our great ancestors ...or perhaps our noble forebears

But for the time being let's just call whoever created this "the magpies"

The magpies

I can't quite bring myself to revere them, you see...

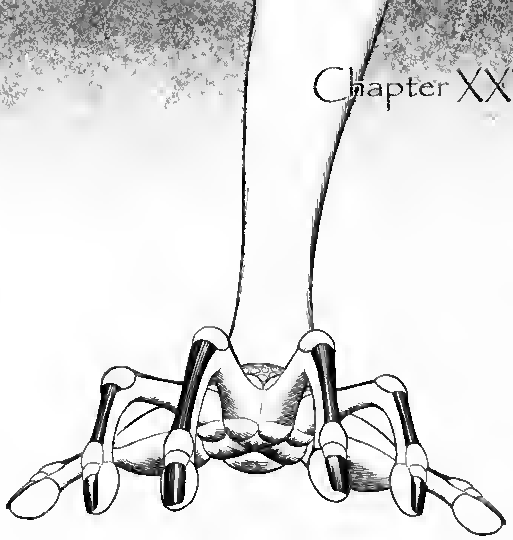

BUT ANYWAY... ABOUT A THOUSAND YEARS AGO "THE MAGPIES" APPEARED ON THIS LAND...


THERE ARE HARDLY ANY RECORDS FROM WHEN THE FESTIVAL BEGAN, AND EVEN THE LEGENDS PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE AGES ARE FRAGMENTED SO ALL I COULD DO WAS TAKE THE PIECES AND TRY TO PUT THEM TOGETHER...

32

THEY PROBABLY CAME FROM THE SKY.

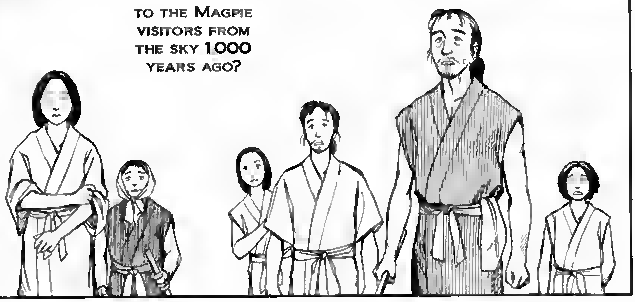
Chapter XXVII

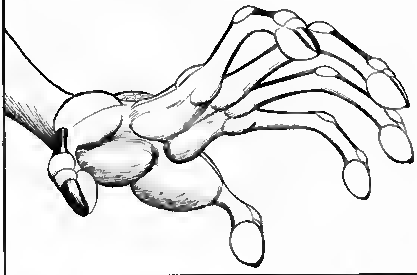


THE MAGPIE'S GIFT PART 2

The Project Scanlations

How do you think the people reacted to the Magpie visitors from the sky 1000 years ago?

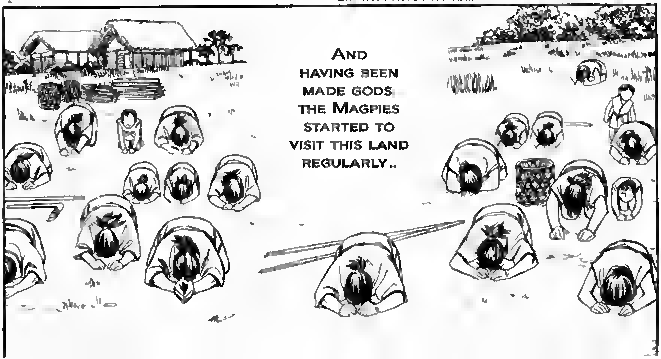




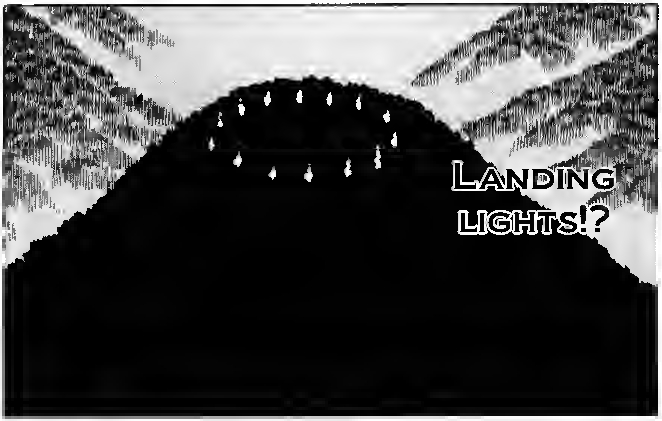
This is the country of the countless gods* With their inhuman looks and powers, good or bad they were "gods". They would have had absolute rule

2

*Lit. yaoyorozu no kami. The spirit beings of Shinto

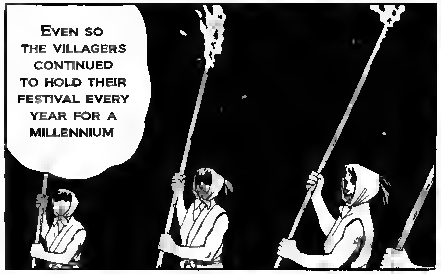


It's not an uncommon occurrence. However so you could say it's a forced connection.
A lot of the folktales from this area mention bountiful harvests in years when the mountain gods descend
Regularly?
That explains why it looks like a landing pad don't you think?
But if we assume the mountain the gods descended on was Marukami Mountain.
3
So the torches must be..
I see..

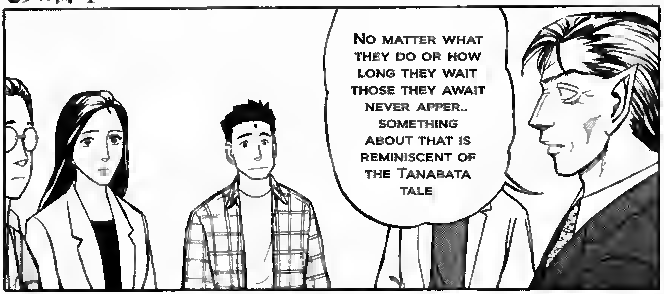

LANDING LIGHTS!?

ASSUMING THE FESTIVAL ORIGINATED FROM THE WELCOME CEREMONY THE MAGPIES VISITS MUST HAVE OCCURRED AROUND SUMMER SOLSTICE
GODS WHO APPEARED PERIODICALLY AND VILLAGERS WHO EAGERLY AWAITED THEIR COMING

4

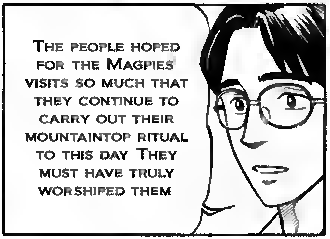

EVEN SO THE VILLAGERS CONTINUED TO HOLD THEIR FESTIVAL EVERY YEAR FOR A MILLENNIUM

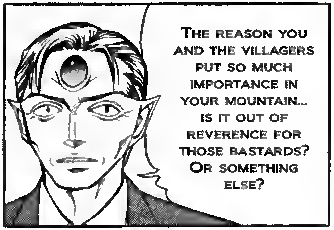
BUT AFTER A CERTAIN POINT THE MAGPIES VISITS STOPPED


No matter what they do or how long they wait those they await never apper.. something about that is reminiscent of the Tanabata tale

Huh?

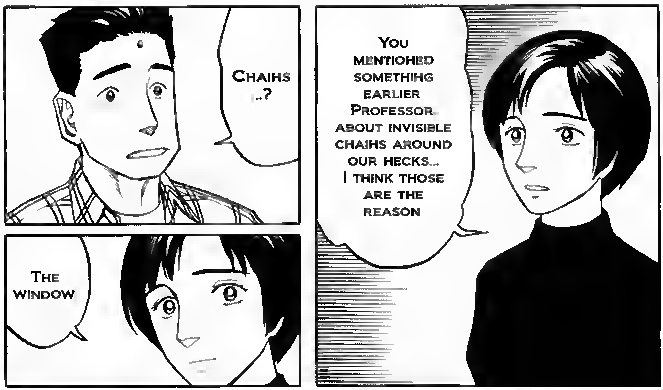
I doubt that

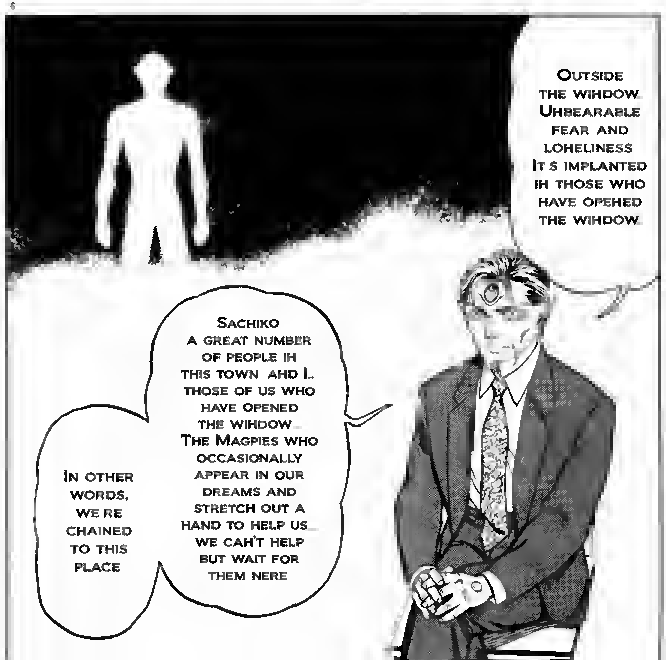

The people hoped for the Magpies' visits so much that they continue to carry out their mountaintop ritual to this day They must have truly worshiped them

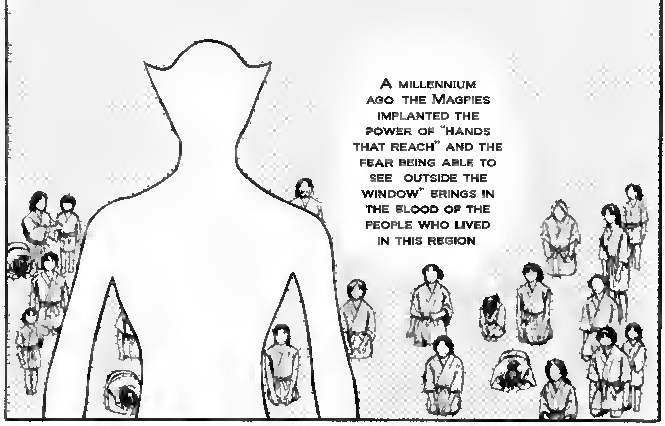

The reason you and the villagers put so much importance in your mountain... is it out of reverence for those bastards? Or something else?

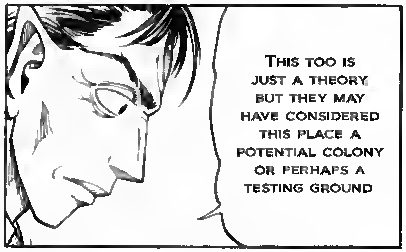
Sachiko what do you think?

"Bastards" !?

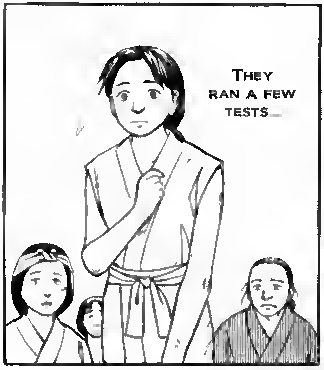

CHAINS ..?
THE WINDOW
YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING EARLIER PROFESSOR ABOUT INVISIBLE CHAINS AROUND OUR NECKS... I THINK THOSE ARE THE REASON

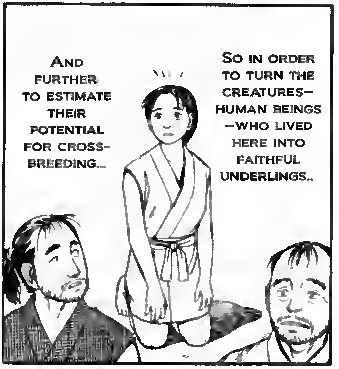

OUTSIDE THE WINDOW UNBEARABLE FEAR AND LONELINESS IT'S IMPLANTED IN THOSE WHO HAVE OPENED THE WINDOW
SACHIKO A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN AND I.. THOSE OF US WHO HAVE OPENED THE WINDOW... THE MAGPIES WHO OCCASIONALLY APPEAR IN OUR DREAMS AND STRETCH OUT A HAND TO HELP US... WE CAN'T HELP BUT WAIT FOR THEM HERE
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE CHAINED TO THIS PLACE


A millennium ago the Magpies implanted the power of "hands that reach" and the fear being able to see outside the window" brings in the blood of the people who lived in this region


This too is just a theory but they may have considered this place a potential colony or perhaps a testing ground

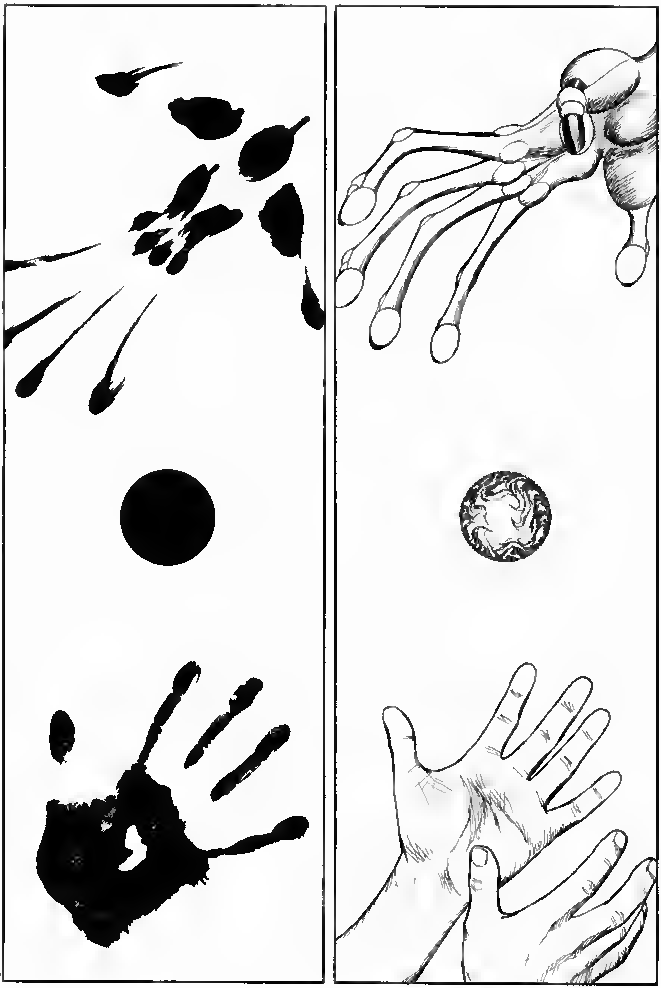
Why would they do such a thing!?

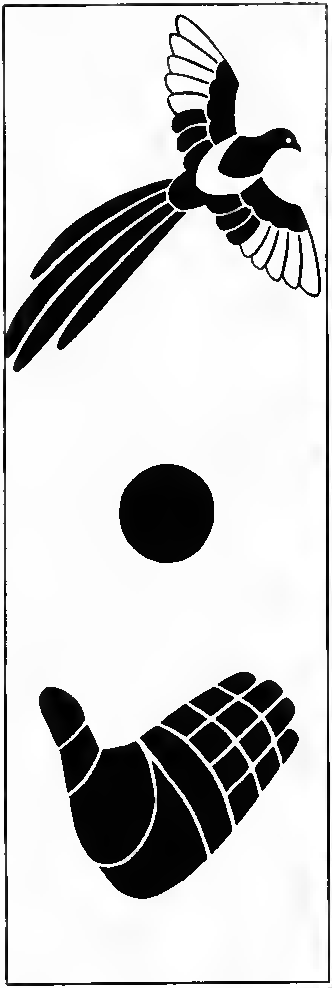

They ran a few tests...

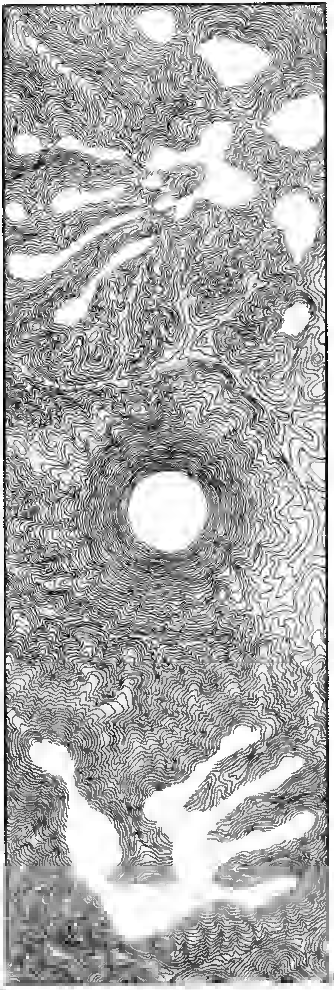

And further to estimate their potential for cross-breeding...
So in order to turn the creatures—human beings—who lived here into faithful underlings..

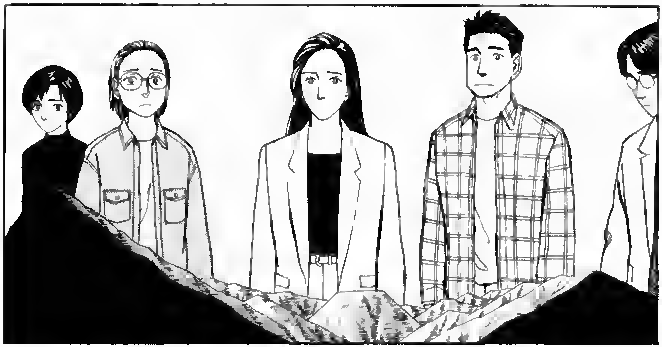
THINK ABOUT IT. WHY WOULD THEY HAVE CARVED THIS HUGE MAGPIE BANNER INTO THE GROUND?
THAT'S TERRIBLE
THAT CERTAINLY TOOK AWAY ANY FEELINGS OF AWE AND WONDER
GOOD POINT.
WHY WOULD BEINGS WITH THE POWER TO DO THIS HAVE CREATED A SIGN THAT WOULD BE INVISIBLE ON A CLOUDY DAY LET ALONE A RAINY ONE?
SO THE VILLAGERS WOULD KNOW WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR THEIR SUMMER SOLSTICE VISITS?
"NEVER LEAVE THIS LAND." "RESIST INVADERS, PRESERVE THE FORM OF THE LAND, AND AWAIT OUR RETURN"... THAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THE "HANDS THAT REACH" WEAPON. THE PURPOSE OF THE FEAR OF THE OPEN WINDOW
THIS FORMATION... THE MAGPIE BANNER IN IT IS PROBABLY THERE TO ENSURE LOYALTY.

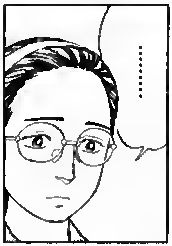
You can't build a castle on Marukami mountain!
So no matter the era
Get out of our town!
The people of this land have protected the land formation with their all.
No golf course!










.....

.....

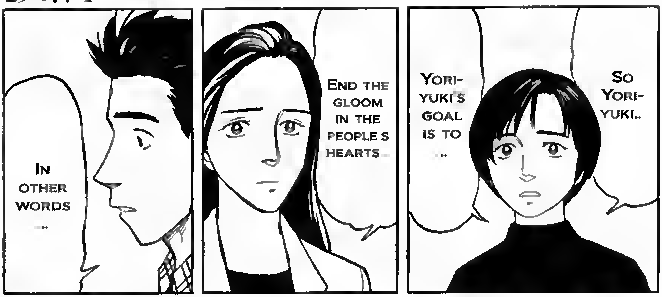
My goodness..

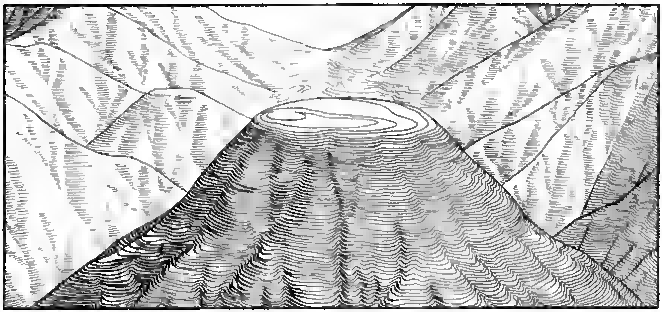
12

Either way, it's been centuries since their last visit, so hopefully not.
I don't know what their situation is. Maybe they just abandoned this place or maybe they're all dead...

.....

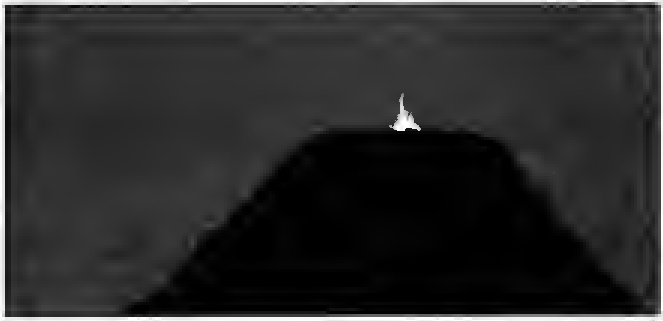
Do you think the Magpies will ever come back?

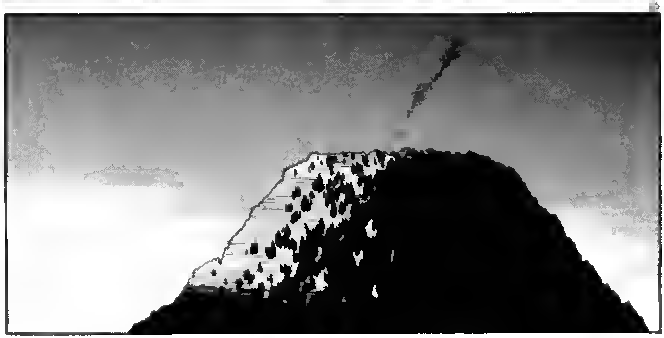

In other words...
End the gloom in the people's hearts...
Yori-yuki's goal is to...
So Yori-yuki..

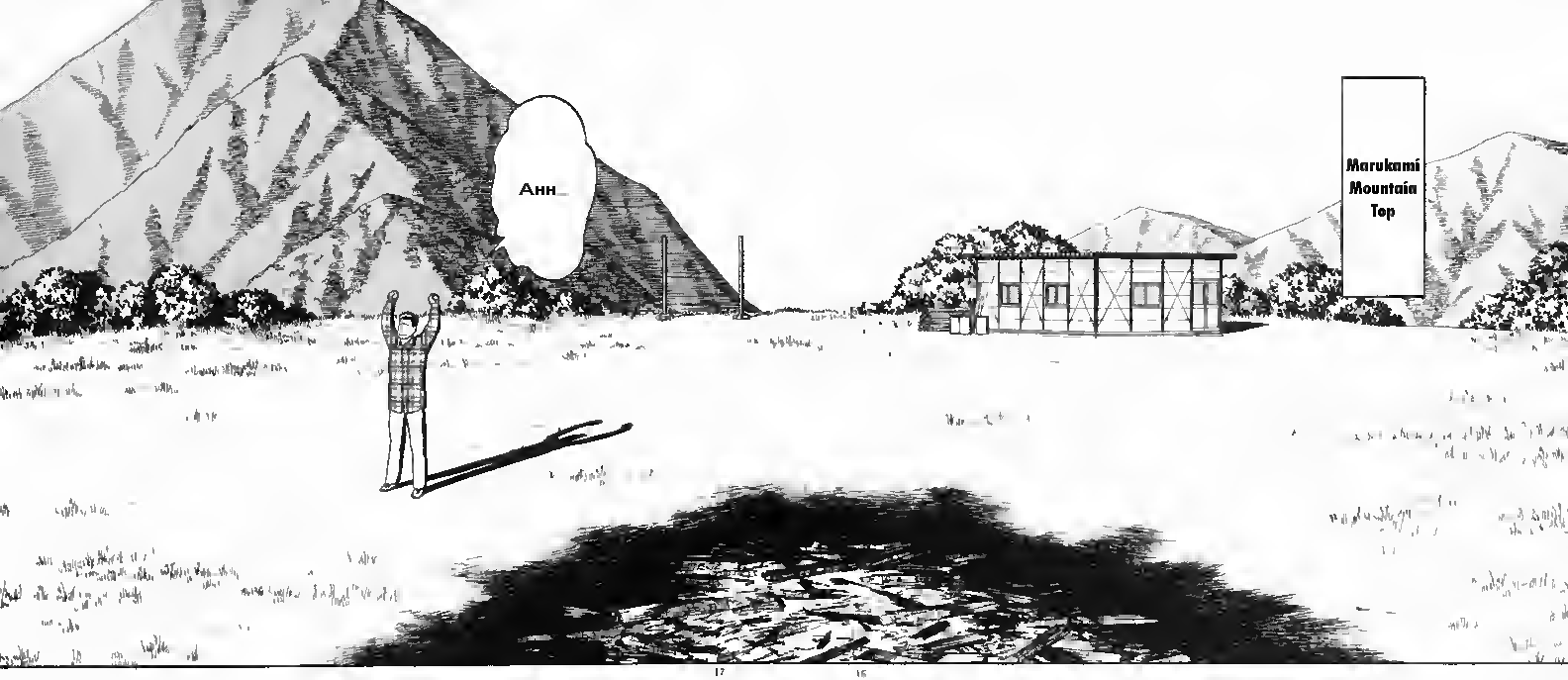


This is the fourth day...

This is the only way. We have to listen to Professor Marukami.
Are they sure Yoriyuki's going to show up?
That's our end of the deal.
I'm not too comfortable with that.
"Don't come near the mountain..."
14
But...
It's an unreasonable expectation...

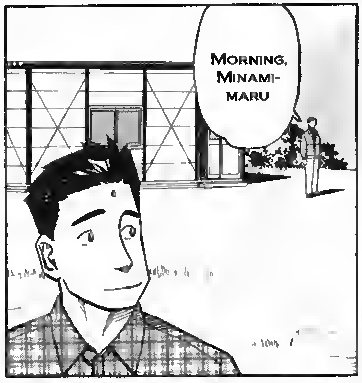


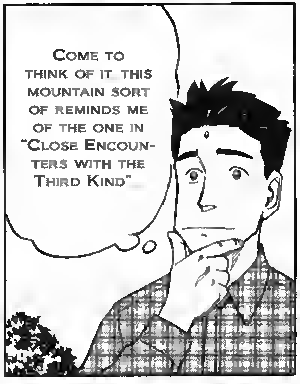



Ahh_
Marukami Mountain Top

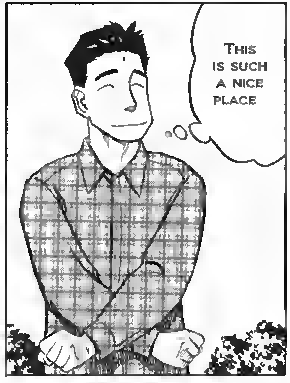
17

16


Morning, Minami-maru

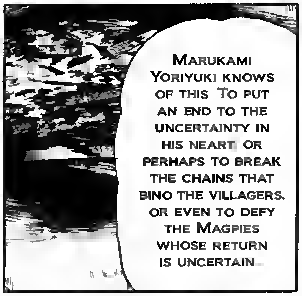

Come to think of it. This mountain sort of reminds me of the one in "Close Encounters with the Third Kind"

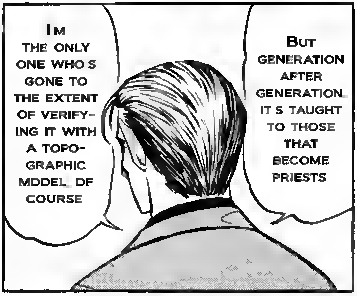
All those years ago?
Did a UFO really land here_


This is such a nice place

WELL, PROFESSOR... WE'LL JUST BE LEAVING NOW
HE'S AN OKAY GUY ONCE YOU GET USED TO HIS FACE...
GOOD MORNING, SIR!
HOW ABOUT YOU MINAMIMARU? WHY DON'T YOU GO DOWN INTO TOWN FOR A CHANGE OF PACE?
OUR REPLACEMENTS SHOULD SHOW UP IN THE AFTERNOON.
NO THANKS I'M FINE. BEING UP HERE MAKES ME FEEL AT PEACE FOR SOME REASON
THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP.
I WONDER IF HE'LL ACTUALLY SHOW UP?
BESIDES I'M THE ONE THAT SUGGESTED MEETING YORIYUKI IN THE FIRST PLACE

The Summer Solstice sunset... Hardly any of the villagers know of the magpie banner that becomes clear when viewed from the sky above. They just protect the form of the land out of tradition.
.....


Marukami Yoriyuki knows of this. To put an end to the uncertainty in his heart, or perhaps to break the chains that bind the villagers, or even to defy the Magpies whose return is uncertain.


I'm the only one who's gone to the extent of verifying it with a topographic model, of course.
But generation after generation, it's taught to those that become priests.

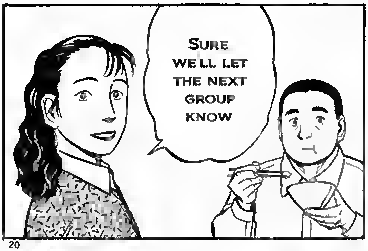
19

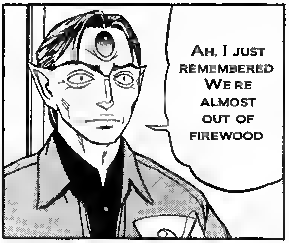
I'm.. not too sure...

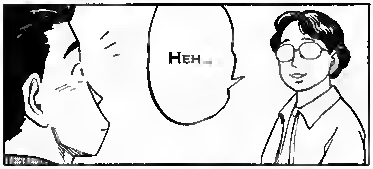
Come on, you two! Breakfast is ready!

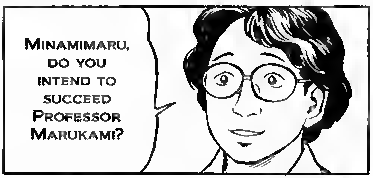
Marukami Mountain is the key. Don't you agree?

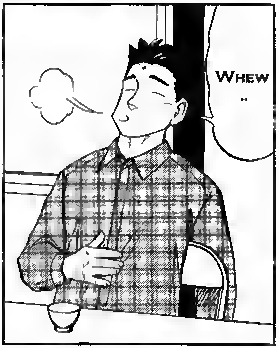
YES PLEASE
WOULD YOU LIKE A SECOND HELPING, MINAMI-MARU?

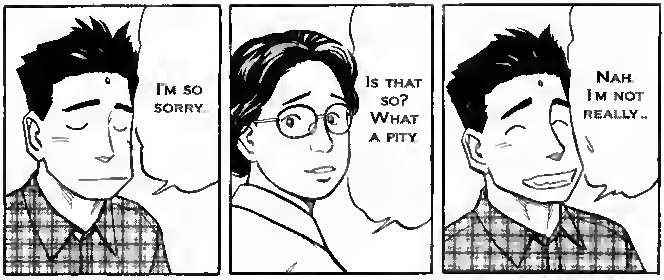

SURE WE'LL LET THE NEXT GROUP KNOW

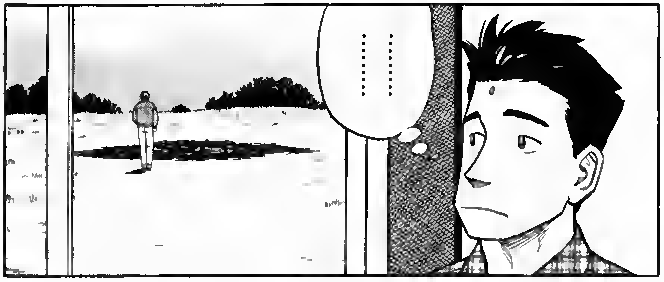

AH, I JUST REMEMBERED WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF FIREWOOD


HEH...


MINAMIMARU, DO YOU INTEND TO SUCCEED PROFESSOR MARUKAMI?

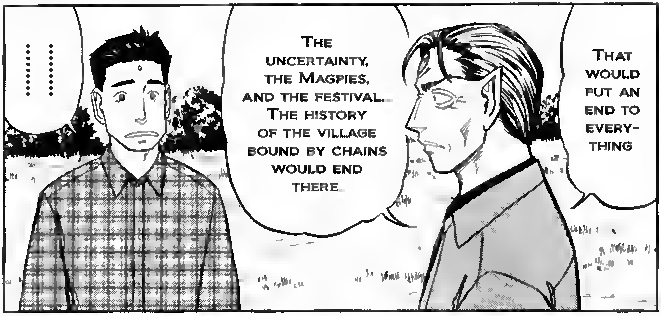

WHEW..


I'm so sorry..
Is that so? What a pity
Nah. I'm not really..

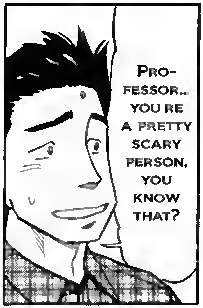

.....

Um.. I have a question..
What is it?

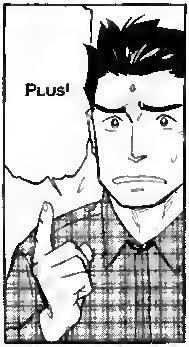
To make it clear there are people from the village up here, since there actually are.
And such a big one, too?
Why do you light a campfire every evening?
Marukami Yoriyuki's goal is probably...
Our discussion got interrupted earlier
.....
!!
To obliterate Marukami Mountain.


……
The uncertainty, the Magpies, and the festival. The history of the village bound by chains would end there.
That would put an end to everything

You think so?

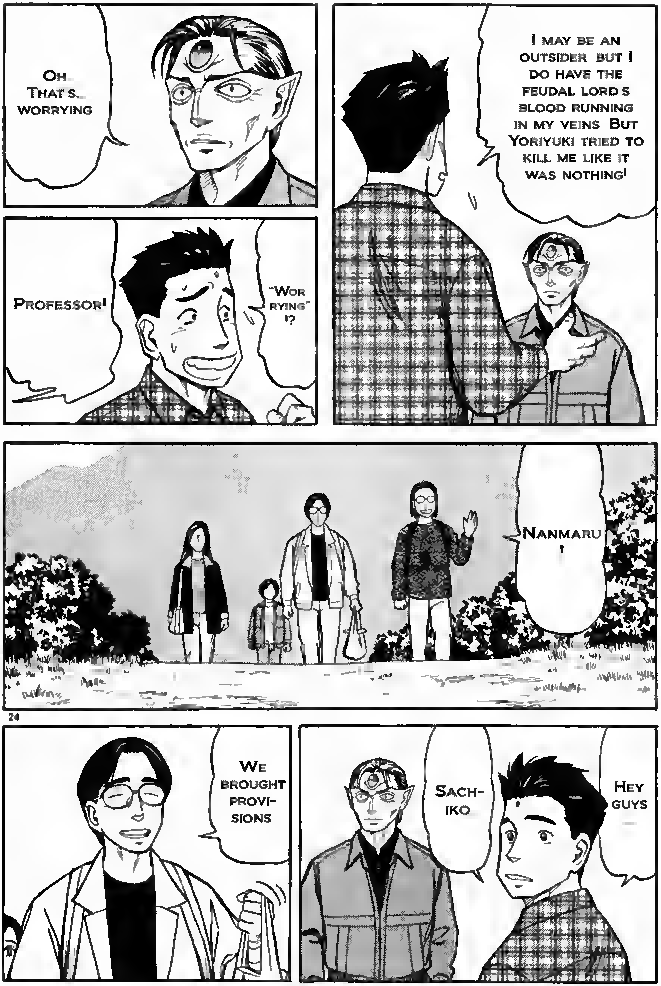

Professor.. you're a pretty scary person, you know that?

Marukami Yoriyuki has taken many lives so far but he should stop at killing one of the villagers. He's their lord and a former priest after all.

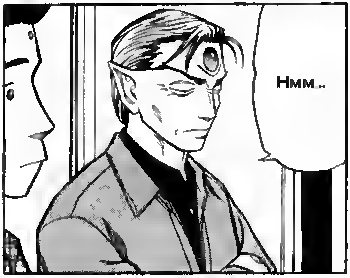

Plus!

Well, you could put it that way..

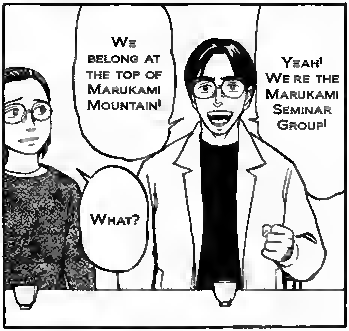
I mean you're basically saying the people in there are hostages right?

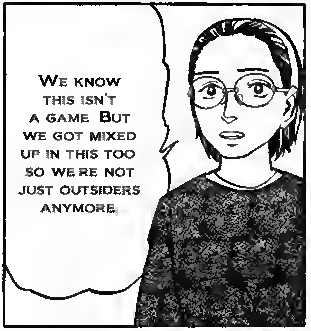

Oh
That's..
worrying
I may be an outsider but I do have the feudal lord's blood running in my veins But Yoriyuki tried to kill me like it was nothing!
Professor!
"Worrying"
!?
Nanmaru
!
24
We brought provisions
Sachiko
Hey guys

SO WE GOT THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO COME TODAY TO SWITCH PLACES WITH US
WE WANTED TO HELP TOO..

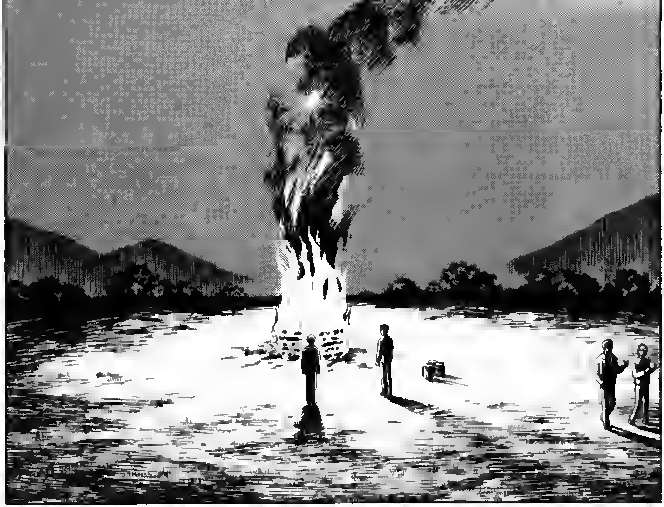

HMM..

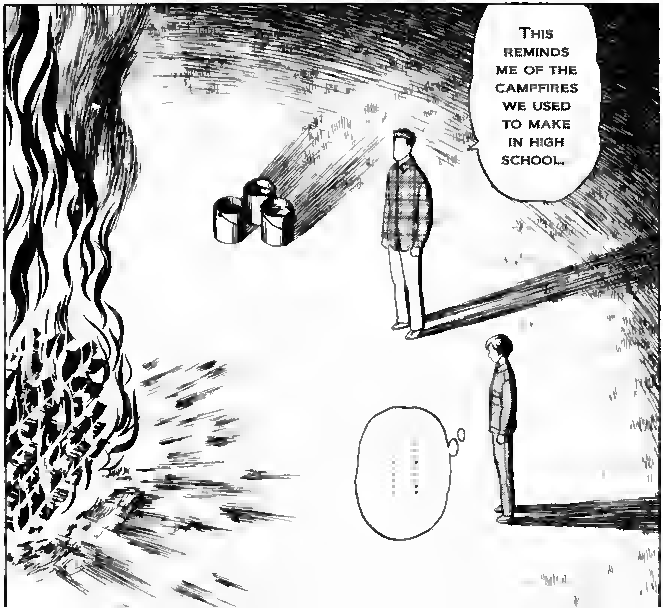
ME TOO, AT ALL COSTS.


WE BELONG AT THE TOP OF MARUKAMI MOUNTAIN!
YEAH! WE'RE THE MARUKAMI SEMINAR GROUP!
WHAT?


WE KNOW THIS ISN'T A GAME BUT WE GOT MIXED UP IN THIS TOO SO WE'RE NOT JUST OUTSIDERS ANYMORE

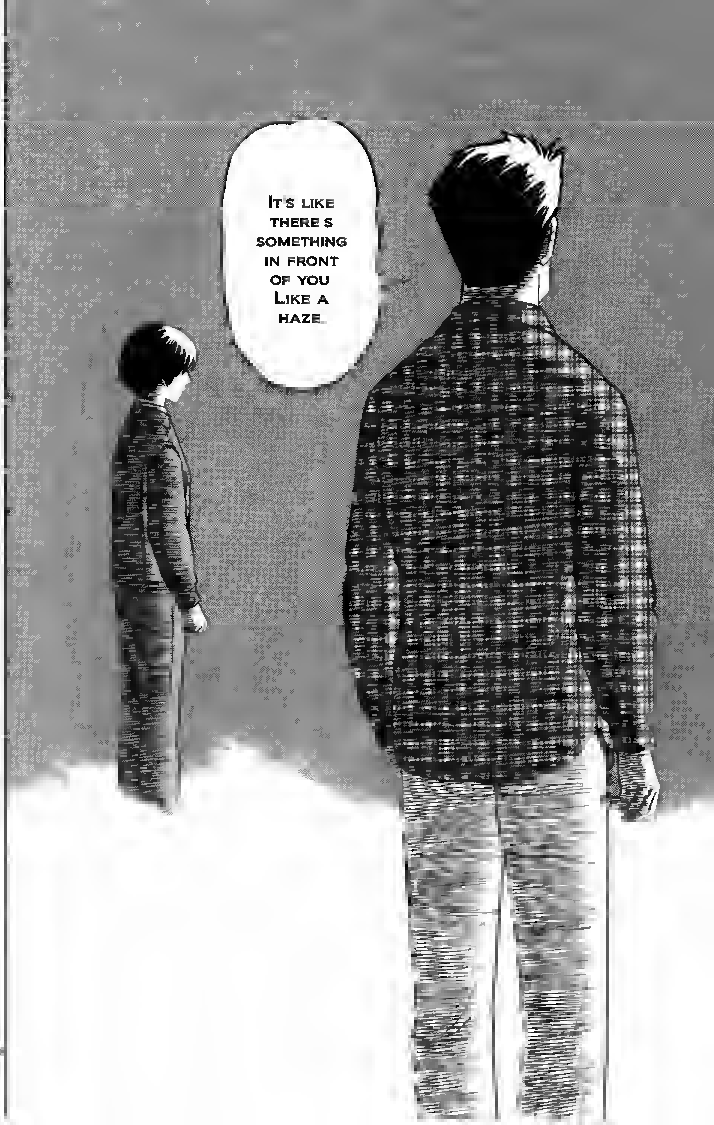
YEAH!
I LEAVE TONIGHT'S SHIFT TO YOU
IS THAT SO? WELL, THEN.
EEEH!?
BUT NOW THE RATIO OF OUTSIDERS TO VILLAGERS HAS INCREASED AND SO HAS OUR DANGER LEVEL



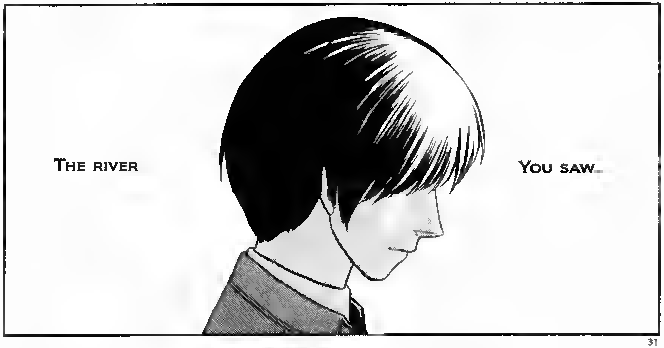

THIS REMINDS ME OF THE CAMPFIRES WE USED TO MAKE IN HIGH SCHOOL.
.....

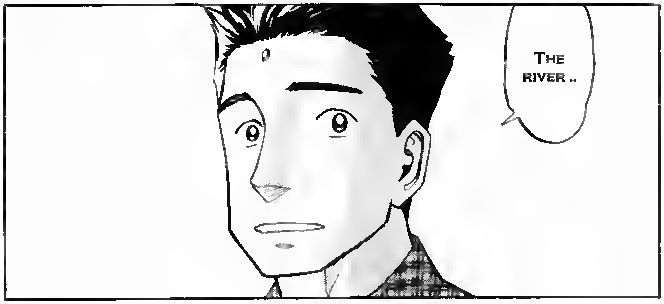
We didn't do anything like that in school.
Not really
Haven't you ever been camping with a lot of people Sachiko?
But you had field trips right? Where did you go?
Is that so
.....
I didn't want to have to bath with everyone else
I didn't do
But someday I want to get out of this town and live somewhere else
I've already got a job...
Do you have any dreams for the future?

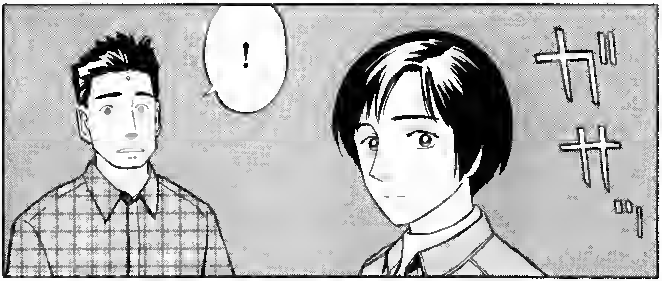
THE PERFECT TOWN FOR ME..! RENT A FLAT..
THAT SOUNDS WONDER-FUL.
YOU'LL FIND THE PERFECT TOWN FOR YOURSELF AND RENT A FLAT THERE..
THAT SHOULD BE EASY!
DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE
YOU JUST HAVE TO STAY CHEERFUL AND THINK POSITIVELY
IT WILL BE THE FUTURE IS FULL OF DREAMS
29
I FEEL IT EVEN NOW HOW DO I PUT IT?
I'VE FELT IT SINCE THE FIRST TIME WE MET
I'M NOT TOO SURE BUT..
SACHIKO ..
YES?


It's like there s something in front of you Like a haze.

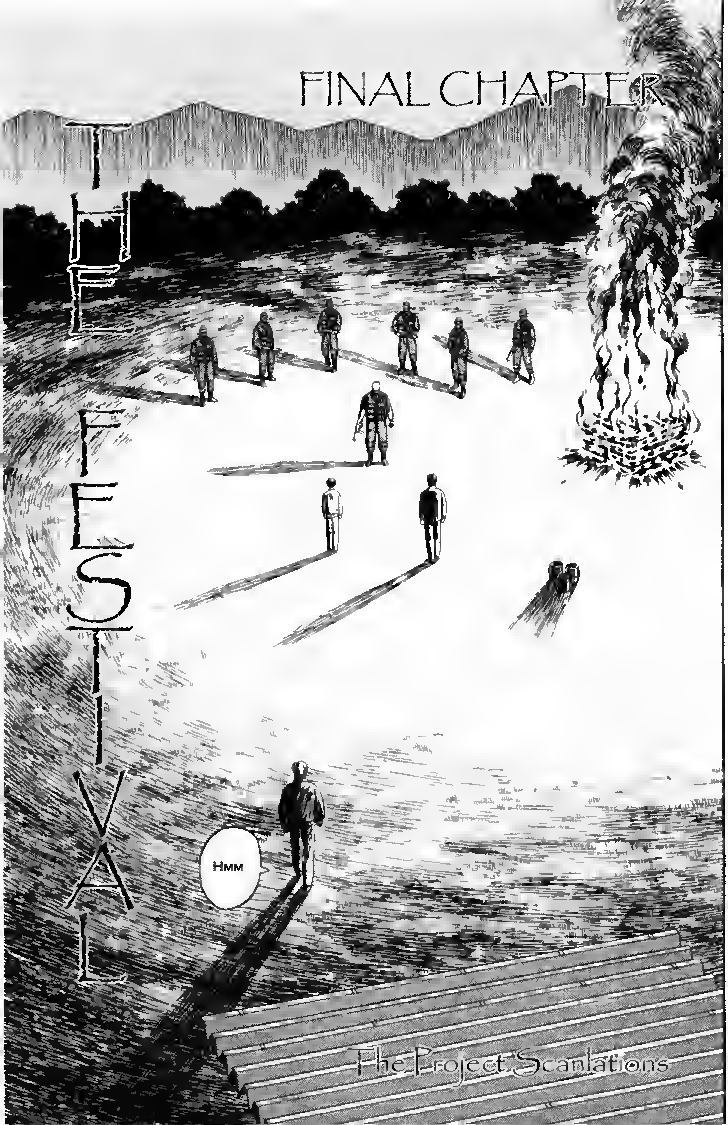
AH...


THE RIVER
YOU SAW...


THE RIVER..



32


FINAL CHAPTER
THE FESTIVAL
HMM
The Project Scanlations

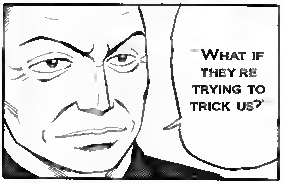
This is in violation of our agreement Get off the mountain immediately

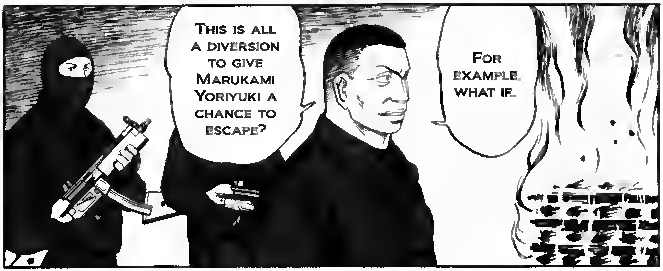
We were waiting down below...
But a thought suddenly occurred to me

2

.....

Oh?

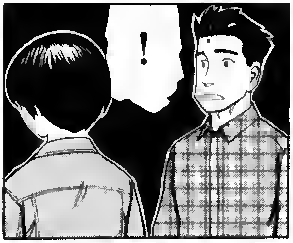

What if they're trying to trick us?

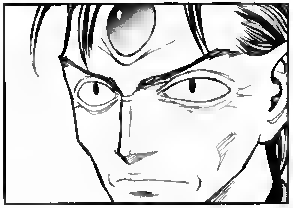

This is all a diversion to give Marukami Yoriyuki a chance to escape?
For example, what if...

No.

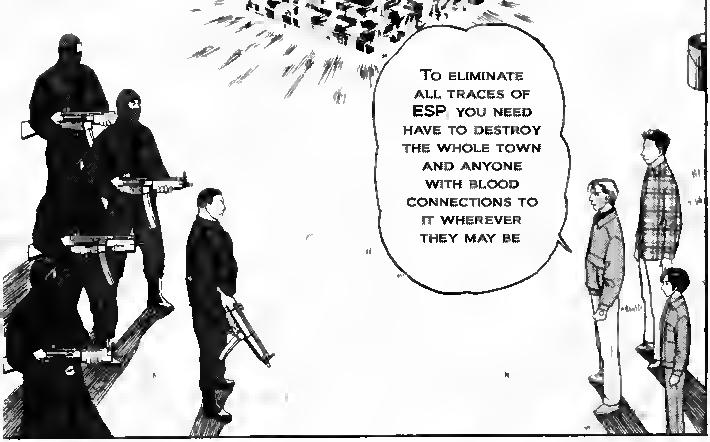
All the town's exits are closed off. Calm down. Get off the mountain.
You've got it completely wrong.

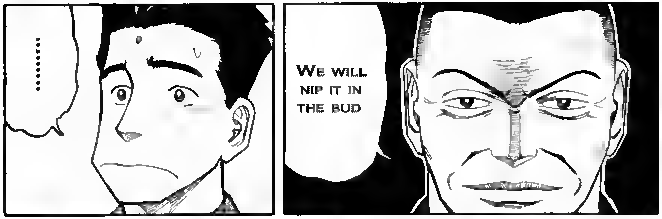
3

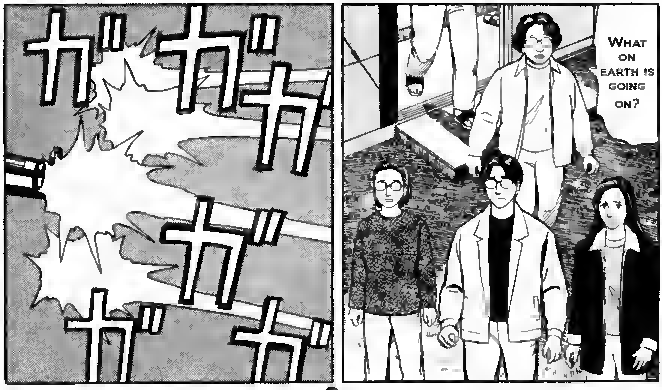

!



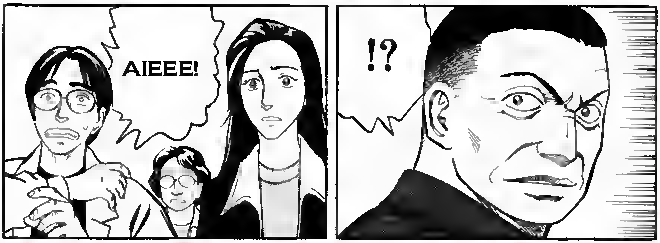
So we decided to nip the danger in the bud.
We've had enough. We've examined the situation and realized the negatives anew.
You intended to do this from the start, didn't you?
"Realized anew"?
Professor Marukami!
Hey, what's going on?
Get back!

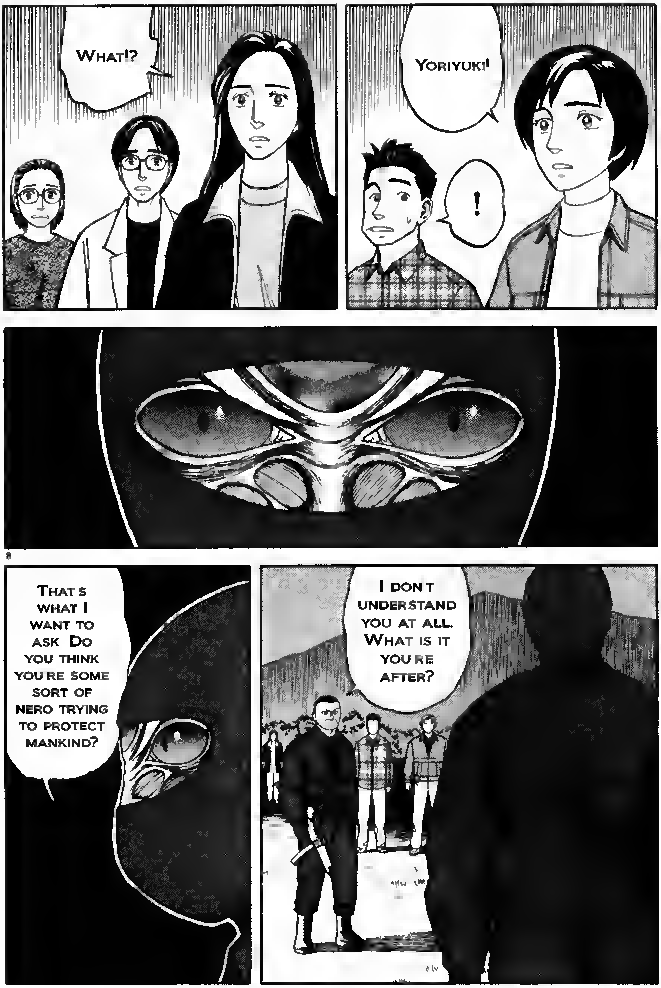

To eliminate all traces of ESP, you need have to destroy the whole town and anyone with blood connections to it wherever they may be

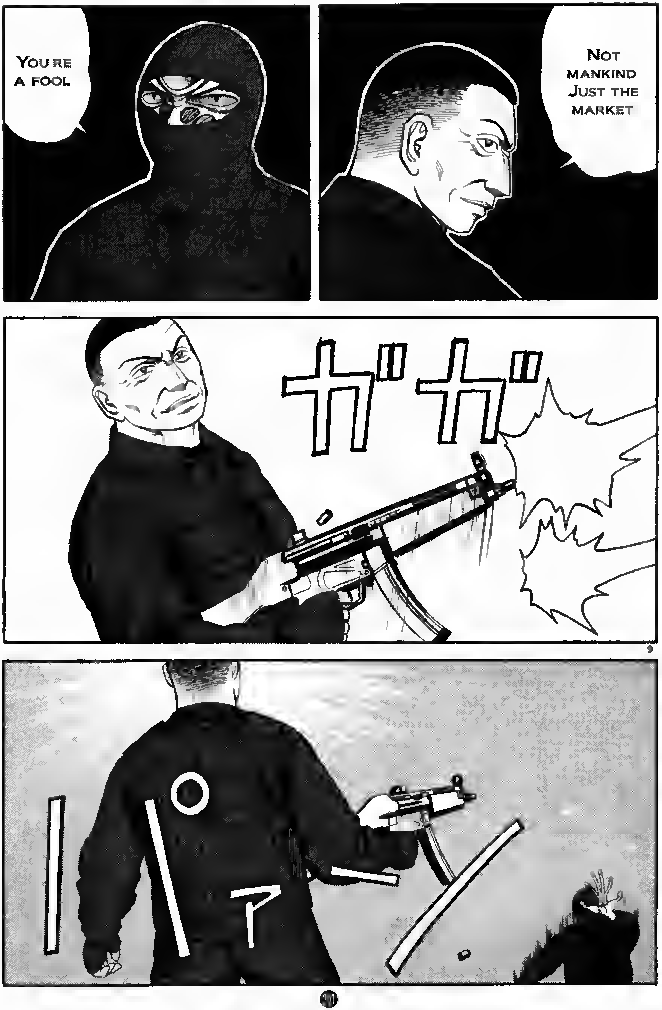

.....
We will nip it in the bud


ガガガ
ガガ
ガガ
What on earth is going on?

EUGH!
ARGH!

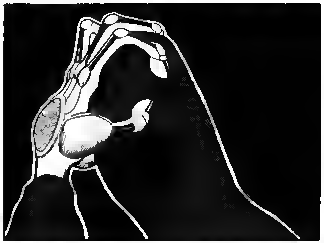

AIEEE!
!?

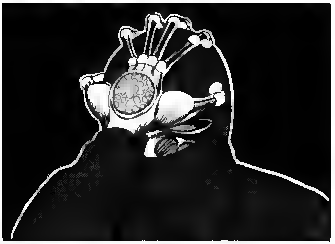

WHAT!?
YORIYUKI
!
THAT S WHAT I WANT TO ASK DO YOU THINK YOU RE SOME SORT OF NERO TRYING TO PROTECT MANKIND?
I DON T UNDERSTAND YOU AT ALL. WHAT IS IT YOU RE AFTER?

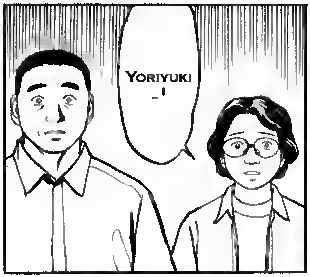

YOU'RE A FOOL
NOT MANKIND JUST THE MARKET
ガガガ

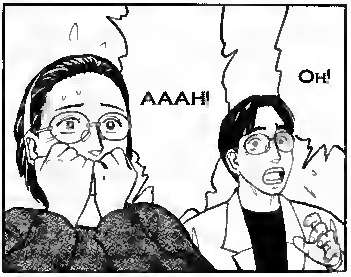
ナゲ
ズ

THEY WERE JUST A PRIVATELY-OWNED BUSINESS

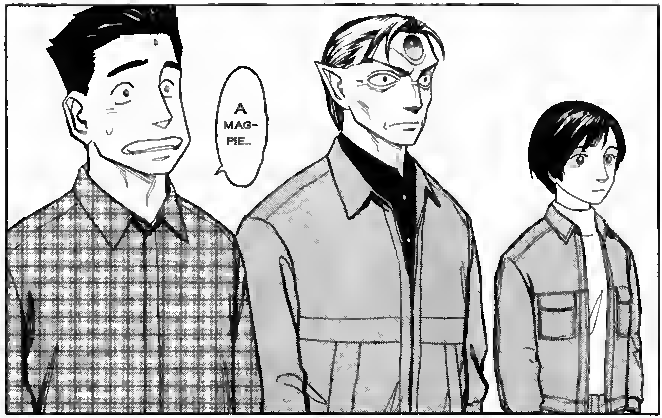





YORIYUKI -!


AAAH!
OH!

12



YOUR FAMILY ESCAPED FROM THIS PLACE LONG AGO. YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND. THE UNEASE. THE LONELINESS. THE ANGER. THE FEAR. THAT HAS BUILT UP IN THIS SMALL AREA FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
IT'S THIS MOUNTAIN YOUR AFTER, ISN'T IT? SO WHY DID YOU HAVE TO KILL SO MANY PEOPLE?
YOU SENT ALL THOSE INNOCENT PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE WINDOW AS STRESS RELIEF?
SO YOU DID IT TO RELIEVE STRESS?
WHAT?
WHAT IF THE "OUTSIDE THE WINDOW" WE SEE IN OUR DREAMS AND THE BALLS WE FORM WITH OUR HANDS ARE ONE AND THE SAME?
WHILE WANDERING AROUND AIMLESSLY THESE PAST FEW DAYS, IT SUDDENLY OCCURRED TO ME.
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BUT NO ONE'S EVER COME BACK TO TELL THE TALE
IT'S LIKE A GARBAGE CHUTE. THERE'S PROBABLY EVEN A BIG INCINERATOR ON THE OTHER SIDE...

Nobody has ever gained the ability to transport a great number of people unharmed until now
I'm saying our ancestors have already reached out to us However...
Eep!
Huh? You mean like...
According to human understanding, travel to earth should be impossible.
If they were beings from another planet...
Look at me! What do you think my ancestors were!?

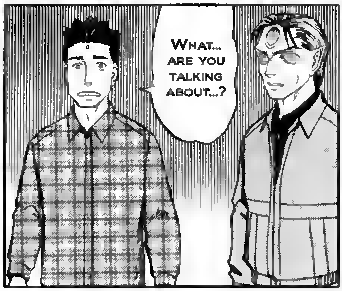
.....
But we, and we alone have hands that reach a different understanding.
And so I changed my plans
but a front door!
In other words perhaps this isn't a window
15
HUH!?
Huh?
!!
Mina-mimaru look up!

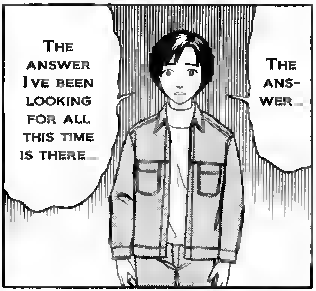
Oh. You can't see it too well because it's dark, right?

I have no more use for this world
And I'm tired of this unease.

I-i-it's huge...

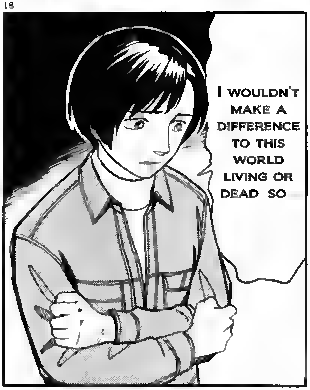
IF THEY WON'T COME FOR ME I'LL GO AND MEET THEM
YORIYUKI, STOP!
YOU HAVE NO PROOF IT LEADS TO THEIR WORLD!
YOU'LL DIE!
17
W-WHAT !?
SACHIKO !
TAKE ME WITH YOU!
YORI-YUKI PLEASE

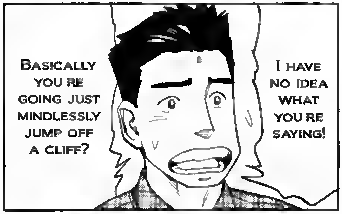

What... are you talking about...?


The answer I've been looking for all this time is there...
The ans-wer...

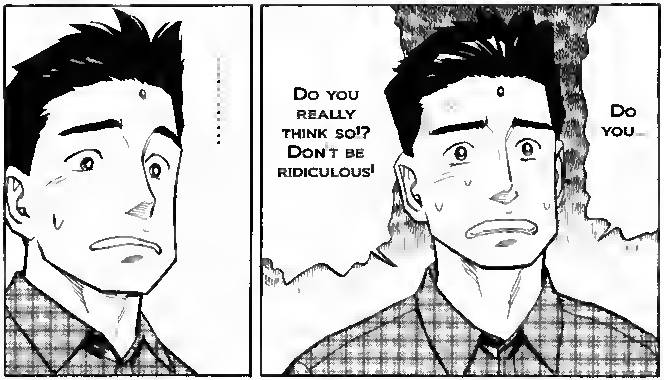
Wasn't it?

The one that reached out to me in that dark world was you, Yoriyuki..
It must be... it has to be!


I wouldn't make a difference to this world living or dead so...

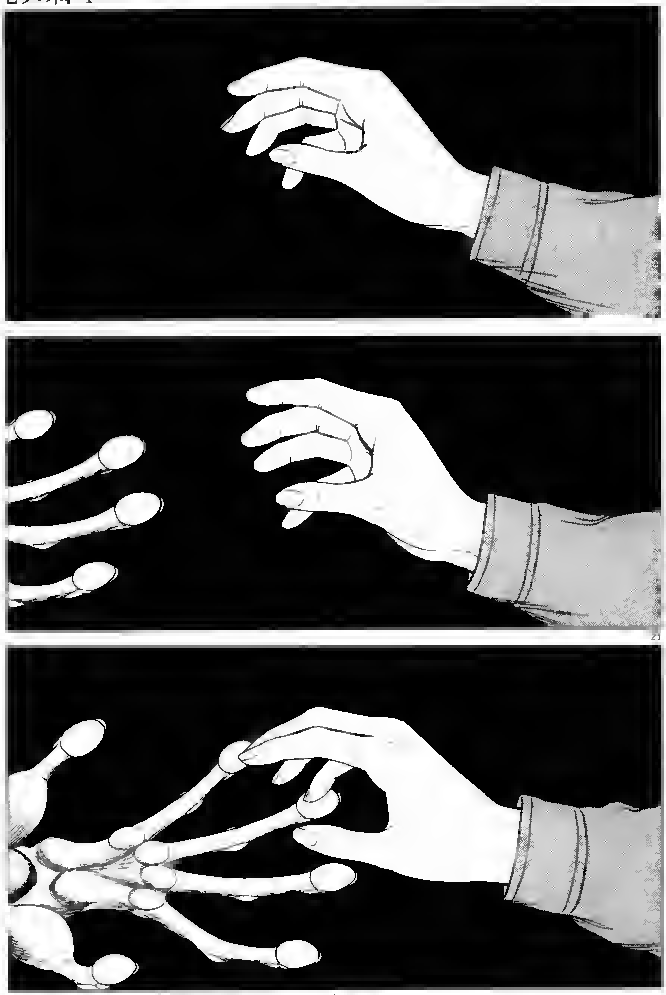

Basically you're going just mindlessly jump off a cliff?
I have no idea what you're saying!

But I..


.....
Do you really think so!? Don't be ridiculous!
Do you

I've...
I've...

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED
TO GRAB THAT HAND...



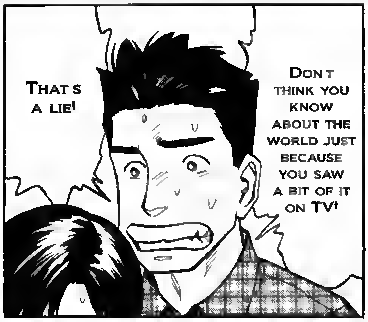
22

I don't understand! And I can't take responsibility! I'm getting in the way just because I don't like you!
Minamimaru... You can't possibly understand the feelings of one who has opened the window. Don't be irresponsible. Stop getting in the way!
Hey, Sachiko! Weren't you talking earlier about how you want to leave the town and start a new life elsewhere?
Does it not matter where you go as long as you leave? Even the next world?
You don't even know much about this world yet!
Nobody. Nobody knows how big this world truly is!
I've had enough.
No. You haven't!

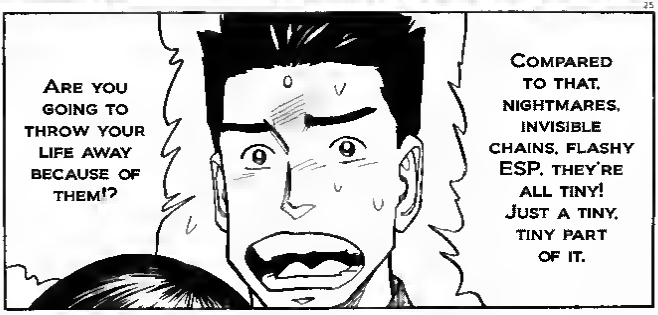
It's so big... so big...!
So big it'd be impossible to clean it all.
Argh, what am I talking about!?

24

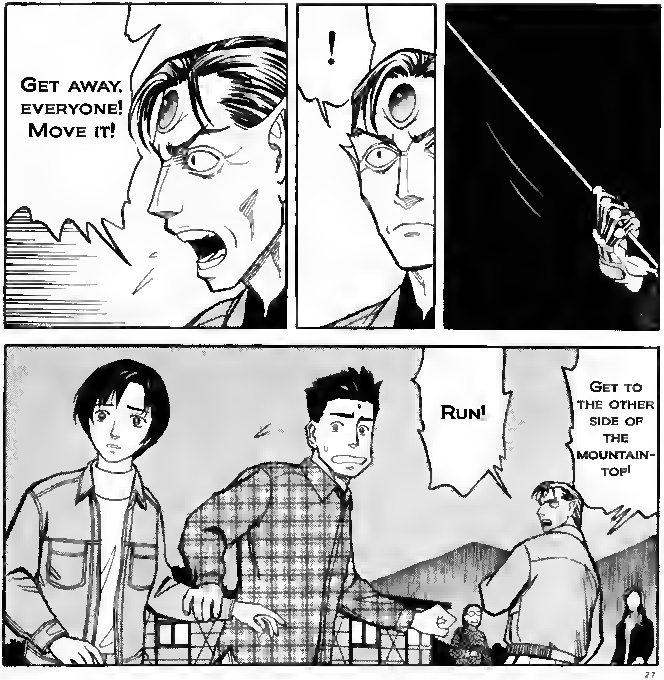
.....

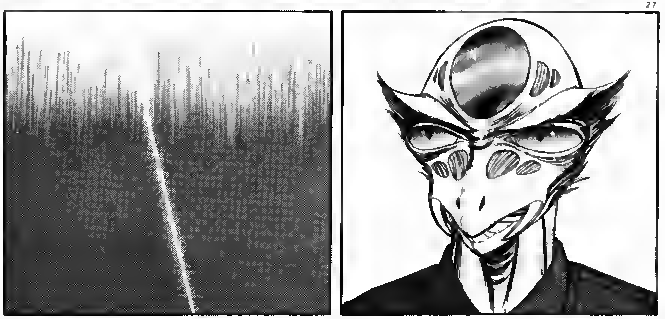

That's a lie!
Don't think you know about the world just because you saw a bit of it on TV!

All over the world, in small places, places so small nobody notices them.
You can find people's thoughts, wisdom, their mistakes and their atonements.
The world is a hundred no, a thousand times bigger than it seems!

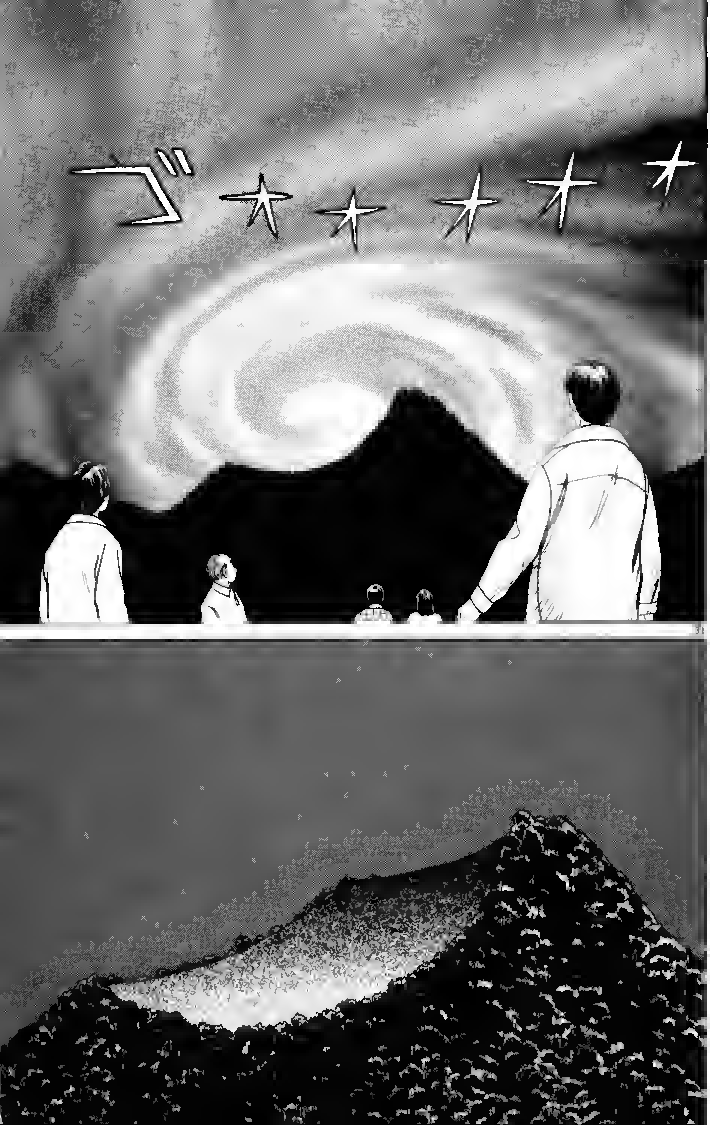

Are you going to throw your life away because of them!?
Compared to that, nightmares, invisible chains, flashy ESP, they're all tiny! Just a tiny, tiny part of it.

A TINY PART...
HMPH
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!
COME AFTER ME IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND
NO NAN-MARU WASN'T IT?
MINAMI-MARU

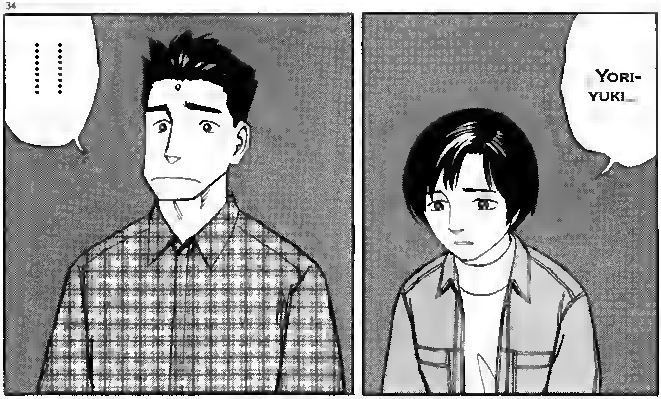

GET AWAY, EVERYONE! MOVE IT!
!
RUN!
GET TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN-TOP!
27

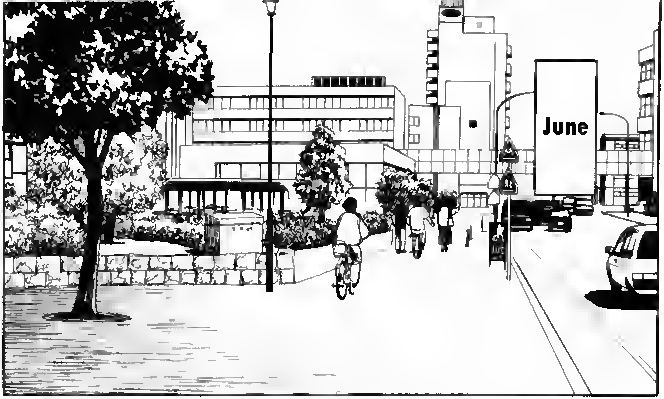


ゴ
ー
ー
ー

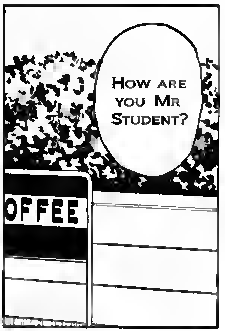

ゴ★★ ★★★

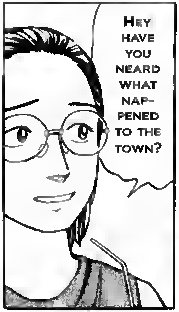
34



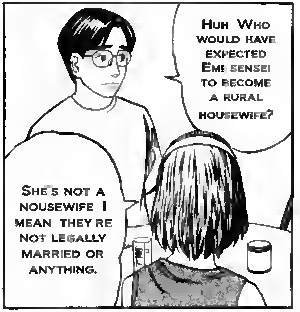

June

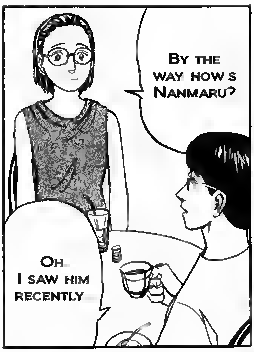
I know, right? Now that Emi-sensei is gone
Aaah I can't wait to gradu-ate..

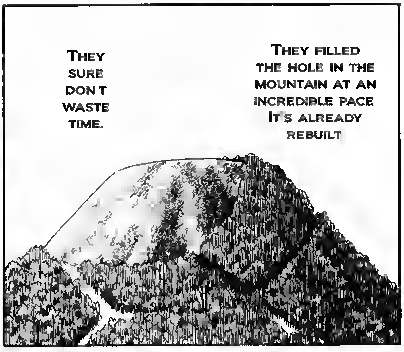

How are you Mr Student?
OFFEE

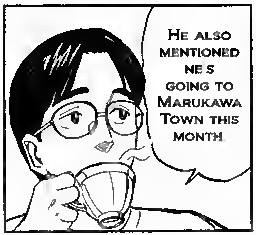

Hey have you neard what nap-pened to the town?

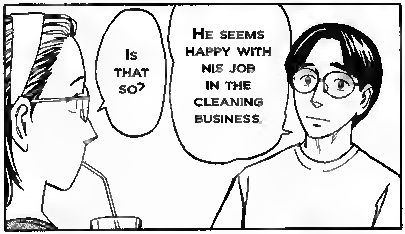
I think they re more like professor and assistant

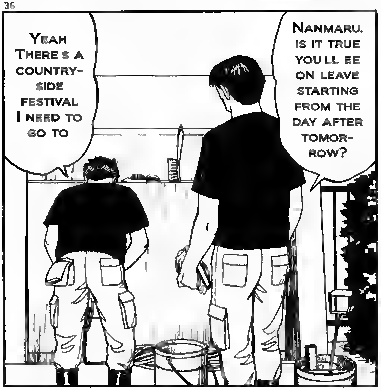

Huh Who would have expected Eme sensei to become a rural housewife?
She's not a housewife I mean they re not legally married or anything.

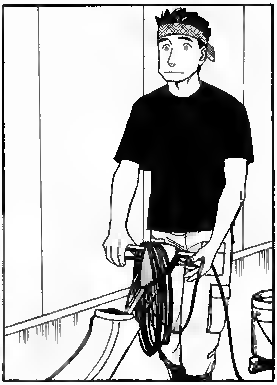

By the way how's Nanmaru?
Oh. I saw him recently.


They sure don't waste time.
They filled the hole in the mountain at an incredible pace. It's already rebuilt.


He also mentioned he's going to Marukawa Town this month.

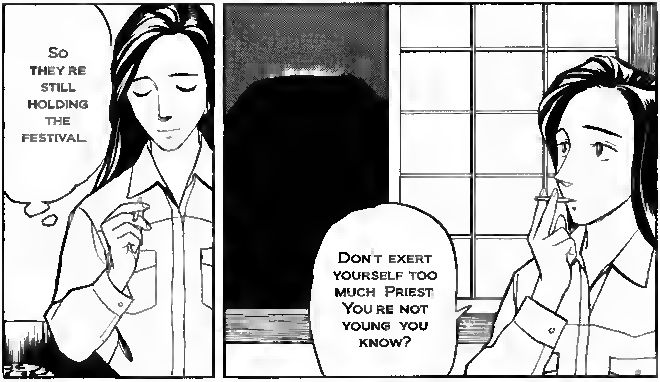

Is that so?
He seems happy with his job in the cleaning business.


Yeah. There's a country-side festival I need to go to.
Nanmaru, is it true you'll be on leave starting from the day after tomorrow?



Oh, that? It goes away by itself if you don't do anything
Ahaha
Wow, you're a pretty important guy My Lord
The thing on your forehead is gone?
Huh?

June, Marukawa Town

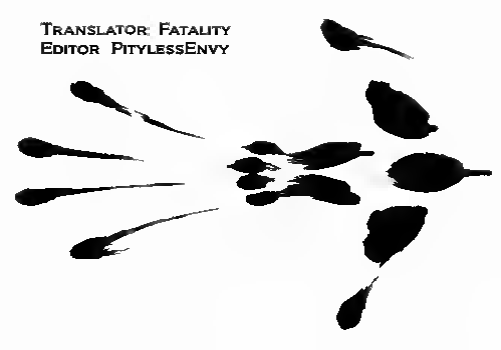

So they're still holding the festival.
Don't exert yourself too much Priest You're not young you know?

Holding out hope that someone will come for them...

From the other side of the heavenly river...

Tanabata no Kuni - End

Translator: Fatality
Editor PitylessEnvy



七夕の国4

ビック コミックス

ISBN4-09-184544-4

1999年4月1日初版第1刷発行　（検印廃止）

著　者　岩　明　均
© Hitoshi Iwaaki　1999
発行者　三　宅　克

印刷所　凸版印刷株式会社

Printed in Japan

発行所　（〒101 8001）東京都千代田区[illegible]一ツ橋二の三の一
振替（00180―1―200）TEL 編集03（3230）5505 販売03（3230）5749
株式会社小学館

●本書の一部あるいは全部を無断で複製（転載）することは固くお断りします。また、本書を代行業者等の第三者に依頼してスキャンやデジタル化することは、たとえ個人や家庭内での利用であっても著作権法違反となります。あらかじめ小社あてに許諾を求めてください。●乱丁本には十分に注意しておりますが、万一、落丁・乱丁本がありましたら、制作部あてにお送りください。送料小社負担でお取り替えいたします。制作部（TEL0120 336 082）
R日本複写権センター委託出版物
本書の一部または全部を無断で複写（コピー）することは、著作権法上での例外を除き禁じられています。本書からの複写を希望される場合は、日本複写権センター（TEL03 3401 2382）にご連絡ください。